OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 1/05 Vol. 48, No. 1

"Nourished With the Words of the Faith"

¹ Pursuing a life of godly devotion requires strenuous effort. (1 Tim. 4:7-10) In our own strength, we would soon grow weary and stumble in trying to follow such a course. (Isa. 40:29-31) One way we can draw strength from Jehovah is by being "nourished with the words of the faith." —1 Tim. 4:6.

² **Rich Spiritual Food:** Through his Word and through "the faithful and discreet slave," Jehovah provides rich spiritual food. (Matt. 24:45) Are we doing our part to benefit from it? Do we read the Bible each day? Do we have set times for personal study and meditation? (Ps. 1:2, 3) Such a healthy spiritual diet invigorates us and protects us from the weakening effects of Satan's world. (1 John 5:19) If we fill our mind with wholesome things and apply them in our lives, Jehovah will be with us.—Phil. 4:8, 9.

³ Jehovah also strengthens us by means of congregation meetings. (Heb. 10:24, 25) The spiritual instruction and wholesome association found at these gatherings fortify us to stand firm in the face of trials. (1 Pet. 5:9, 10) One Christian youth said: "I go to school all day long, and it tears me down. But the meetings are like an oasis in the desert, where I am refreshed to make it through the next school day." How we are blessed for the effort we put forth to attend meetings!

⁴ **Proclaiming the Truth:** Preaching to others was like food to Jesus. It energized him. (John 4:32-34) Likewise, when we talk to others about the marvelous promises of God, we feel rejuvenated. Being busy in the ministry also keeps our heart and mind focused on the Kingdom and the blessings soon to come. That truly refreshes us. —Matt. 11:28-30.

⁵ How privileged we are to benefit from the rich spiritual nourishment that Jehovah is providing for his people today! May we continue crying out joyfully to his praise.—Isa. 65:13, 14.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
Part 5: Determining How Much Material to Cover

¹ When teaching, Jesus took into consideration his disciples' limitations, speaking to them "as far as they were able to listen." (Mark 4:33; John 16:12) In a similar way, teachers of God's Word today need to gauge the pace at which they cover material on a Bible study. The amount of material that can be considered will depend on the ability and the circumstances of both the teacher and the student.

² **Build Solid Faith:** Some students may require two or three sessions to grasp what other students can easily take in during one session. We do not want to sacrifice the student's having a clear understanding for the sake of speed. Every student needs a solid basis for his newfound faith in God's Word.—Prov. 4:7; Rom. 12:2.

³ As you conduct the study week by week, spend whatever time is necessary to help the student understand and accept what he is learning from God's Word. Avoid a hurried pace that detracts from the richness of the truths being taught. Allow sufficient time to focus on the main points and to consider key scriptures that provide the basis for the teachings.—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

⁴ **Keep the Study Moving:** While we want to avoid rushing through the study, we also want to avoid becoming sidetracked. If a student is inclined to speak at length about personal matters, we may need to arrange to discuss these after the study. —Eccl. 3:1.

⁵ On the other hand, our own enthusiasm for the truth can make it a challenge not to talk excessively during the study. (Ps. 145:6, 7) An occasional side point or experience can enrich a study, but we would not want these to become so numerous or lengthy that they hinder the student from acquiring an accurate knowledge of basic Bible teachings.

⁶ By covering a reasonable amount of material at each study session, we help Bible students to "walk in the light of Jehovah."—Isa. 2:5.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 10

Song 223

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one presentation demonstrate how to offer the magazines to a non-Witness relative.

15 min: "Nourished With the Words of the Faith."* Read and discuss the cited scriptures as time permits.

20 min: "Try a Flexible Approach." Audience discussion of page 6 of the insert. Demonstrate two examples of how this approach could be used with the literature offer for the month. In each demonstration, have the publisher read one scripture that addresses a concern mentioned by the householder.

Song 143 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 17

Song 34

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Youths—Are You Making Spiritual Advancement? A talk by an elder based on the April 1, 2003, *Watchtower,* pages 8-10. Mention some realistic, attainable goals, and encourage youths to set specific spiritual goals for themselves.

20 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 5."* Include a demonstration of an experienced teacher discussing with a newer publisher how to avoid the pitfalls mentioned in paragraphs 4-5.

Song 78 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 24

Song 163

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Briefly review the box "Video Programs on DVD."

10 min: Question Box. A talk.

25 min: "How to Use Sample Presentations."* Use the questions that are provided. Mention that pages 3-5 of this month's insert contain presentations for publications that we will be featuring. Save the insert for use throughout the year. Following the consideration of the article, discuss how we can offer *Draw Close to Jehovah* during February. Demonstrate two presentations. They may be based on the sample presentations on page 3 or on other presentations that would be effective in the local territory.

Song 200 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 31

Song 157

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present either the February 1 *Watchtower* or the February 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Are You Examining the Scriptures Daily? Talk and audience discussion based on the foreword of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2005.* Discuss the need for all to take a few minutes each day to consider the scripture text and comments. Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on their routine for considering the text and how they have benefited. Conclude with a brief discussion of the yeartext for 2005.

Song 184 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 7

Song 97

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Help New Ones Learn to Love God and Neighbor. A talk based on the July 1, 2004, *Watchtower,* page 16, paragraphs 7-9. Highlight how each member of the congregation has a part in helping new ones become disciples of Christ.

20 min: Jehovah Does Not Hold Back Anything Good. (Ps. 84:11) Interview a few brothers and sisters who have remained faithful through trials. What difficulties have they faced? What has helped them to cope? What joys and blessings have they experienced?

Song 104 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	225	97.0	78.2	41.4	4.5
Pios.	95,760	68.3	40.0	20.6	1.9
Aux. Pios.	44,163	49.9	32.6	12.3	0.9
Pubs.	853,328	9.9	7.8	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	993,476	Baptized: 2,680			

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 95,760 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 1,210 over the previous peak of 94,550 in October 2003.

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SAVE Suggested Field Service Presentations

Use the following suggestions to help you prepare presentations that feature the literature offer for the month.

Draw Close to Jehovah

"Many people who believe in God would like to feel closer to him. Did you know that God invites us to draw close to him? [Read James 4:8.] This publication is designed to help people use their own Bible to draw close to God." Read paragraph 1 on page 16.

"Today injustice abounds. It is just as described here. [Read Ecclesiastes 8:9b.] Many wonder if God even cares. [Read the first two sentences of paragraph 4 on page 119.] This chapter explains why God has permitted injustice for a time."

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?

"Where can we find the best advice on how to solve our most perplexing problems? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 7:28, 29.] That describes how people responded to Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Note what others have said. [Feature comments on page 152.] This chapter discusses the life and teachings of Jesus."

"Have you ever wondered: 'If there is a God, will he ever act to remove suffering and injustice in the world?' [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 21:3, 4.] This book explains what God will do to eliminate suffering and remove its source." Show chapter 10.

Keep on the Watch!

"Many people are concerned about the serious problems and shocking events that are common today. [Cite an example known locally.] Did you know that such things are part of a global sign that shows that God's government is soon to take control of earth's affairs? [Allow for response. Then read an appropriate scripture text, such as Matthew 24:3, 7, 8; Luke 21:7, 10, 11; or 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] This brochure discusses why it is especially urgent to be alert to the significance of these events now."

"Many today are distressed by shocking events or by severe personal loss. Some wonder why God does not intervene to prevent such things. The Bible assures us that God will soon act to relieve mankind's suffering. [Read Revelation 14:6, 7.] Notice what God's judgment will mean for mankind. [Read 2 Peter 3:10, 13.] This brochure provides more information on this important subject."

Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life

"If you were invited to live in beautiful surroundings like these, would you accept the invitation? [Show the picture on pages 4-5, and allow for response.] Notice what God's Word says is the key to enjoying this kind of life forever. [Read John 17:3.] This book will help you gain the knowledge that leads to everlasting life." Arrange to discuss the first five paragraphs of chapter 1 on the next visit.

Open to the picture on pages 188-9, and using the words in the caption, ask the householder: "Do you hope to live in Paradise, when the knowledge of God fills the earth? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 11:9.] This book will help you to learn what the Bible says about Paradise and how we can be a part of it." Arrange to discuss paragraphs 11-16 of chapter 1 on the next visit.

Learn From the Great Teacher

"Do you think that the world would be a better place if people lived by this saying? [Read Matthew 7:12a. Then allow for response.] This book contains many lessons from the greatest teacher who ever lived." Highlight the pictures and captions in chapter 17.

"Most parents today try to instill wholesome values in their children. Do you feel that this is important? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 22:6.] Notice that parents are encouraged to start training their children from an early age. This book is designed to help them to do that." Highlight the pictures and captions in chapter 15 or 18.

"Often parents are amazed at the questions their children ask. Some of those questions can be hard to answer, isn't that so? [Allow for response. Then read Ephesians 6:4.] This book can help parents answer questions for their children today." Highlight a few of the pictures and captions in chapters 11 and 12 or 34 to 36.

Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?

"All of us are concerned with the crime and violence in our area. Do you feel that anyone has a real solution to the problem? [Allow for response.] God has a solution." Turn to page 196; read and comment on Proverbs 2:21, 22 in paragraph 19. Show the title of chapter 16, and offer the book.

Open to page 6, and say: "Many people think that our beautiful earth and life upon it resulted from an accident. What do you consider to be a reasonable explanation as to how all of this came about? [Allow for response.] Mountains of evidence confirm the Bible's account of a Creator who is very powerful and who loves us very much. He is the true God, and his name is Jehovah." Read Psalm 83: 18, and briefly explain how it is his purpose to transform the entire earth into a paradise.

Mankind's Search for God

"With so many different religions today, have you ever wondered how we can determine which one is approved by God?" After a response, open to page 377. Highlight point number 7, and ask if the householder agrees that the true religion should unite all races of mankind. Look up one of the cited scriptures, and as time permits, discuss some of the other points on the list. If there is genuine interest, offer the book. When leaving, you could ask, "How should true religion affect a person's conduct?" Arrange for a return visit to answer the question.

If a person identifies himself as a member of a major religious group, you might say: "It is interesting to meet people of various religions. Mankind's search for God has taken many different directions. [If appropriate, read Acts 17: 26, 27.] Often, people follow the religion of their parents. [Read paragraph 12 on page 8.] Learning more about other religions is enlightening and educational. This book explains the origin, practices, and teachings of the major religions of the world." Show an example of what the book contains about the person's religion, as found on the following pages: Sikhism (100-101); Hinduism (116-17); Buddhism (141); Taoism (164-6); Confucianism (177); Shintoism (190-5); Judaism (220-1); and Islam (289).

Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!

"You may have heard about [mention a news item]. When lives are tragically cut short, many wonder what comfort can be offered to the families of the victims. What do you think?" Allow for response. Then open to page 299, and show the resurrection scene that is illustrated. Continue by saying: "Many are surprised to learn that both righteous and unrighteous people will be brought back to life in Paradise on earth. [Read Acts 24:15 as quoted in paragraph 9 on page 297, and then give the explanation found in paragraph 10.] This book discusses many other interesting details about God's purpose for the future."

The Bible—God's Word or Man's?

"We live at a time when almost everyone is faced with serious problems. Many turn to all sorts of counselors for guidance. Some look to psychics for help. Where do you think we can find sound counsel that will really work for us? [Allow for response.] The Bible states an important fact that all of us need to appreciate. [Read 2 Timothy 3:16. Then open to page 187, and read paragraph 9.] This book will help you to appreciate how following what the Bible says always works out for the best."

The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived

"During this season many people are thinking about Jesus. However, because so many bad things are happening all over the world, some may wonder if Jesus really cares about us. How do you feel about that?" Allow for a reply. Turn to chapter 24, and discuss briefly why Jesus came to earth. Then read John 15:13, emphasizing Jesus' heartfelt love for others.

"When someone mentions Jesus Christ, many people think of him either as a baby or as a suffering man about to die. Their concept of Jesus involves only his birth and his death. The marvelous things he said and did during his lifetime often go unnoticed. What he accomplished affects every person who has ever lived on this earth. That's why it's vital that we learn as much as we can about the wonderful things he did in our behalf." Read John 17:3. Turn to the first page of the introduction, and read the fourth paragraph.

What Does God Require of Us?

"Do you think that God meant for us to live surrounded by troubles such as those we are faced with today? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 6:10.] Have you given thought to just what the Kingdom of God really is?" Turn to lesson 6, and read the questions that are posed at the beginning of the lesson. Begin a discussion of the lesson, or arrange to do so on the next visit.

"Despite the advances of modern society, sickness and death continue to cause much suffering and sorrow for mankind. Do you know what Jesus will do for the sick, the elderly, and even the dead?" Allow for response. If the person wants to know the answer, open to lesson 5, and read the questions for paragraphs 5-6. Discuss the paragraphs, or arrange to do so on the next visit.

Worship the Only True God

"Where do you think we can turn for help to deal with the pressures of life? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 15:4.] Notice that the inspired Scriptures provide us with instruction, comfort, and hope, which can strengthen us to endure difficulties. This book offers helpful suggestions on how we can get the most benefit from reading the Bible." Highlight the four points outlined on page 30.

"Since the days when Jesus walked the earth, many people have been praying for God's Kingdom to come. Have you ever wondered what the coming of that Kingdom will mean for mankind? [Allow for response. Then read Daniel 2:44.] This book explains what God's Kingdom is, what it will accomplish, and how we can benefit from its righteous rule." Feature the illustration on pages 92-3.

Try a Flexible Approach

Sincere interest in people will move us to try to discern their needs and show them how the Kingdom will provide the complete solution to the problems they face. (Phil. 2:4) A flexible approach that many publishers find effective is to invite the householder to comment on *illustrations of Paradise scenes* in our publications, such as those listed in the right-hand column of this page. You might do this using one of the following introductions:

- "Do you think we will ever see the human family enjoying the kind of conditions pictured here?"
- "All of us would like our children to be able to enjoy the kind of world pictured here. What do you think it would take to bring this about?"
- "This is an illustration of what the earth will look like when God's will takes place on earth as it is in heaven. Do you notice anything that is different from life today?"
- "Would you like to live under the conditions pictured here? [Allow for response.] Do you think this will happen in our lifetime?"

Listen carefully to the person's response, and kindly draw him out with an additional question or two. If some respond that they would not want to live under the conditions pictured or that they do not believe that such a thing is possible, do not quickly conclude that they have no interest. Tactfully inquire why they feel the way they do. Their comments may reveal a deep concern over the seemingly unsolvable problems facing mankind.—Ezek. 9:4.

As you discern the householder's concerns, adapt your presentation accordingly. Highlight the aspect of the Kingdom message that most directly addresses his needs. Share one or two scriptures that touch on the matter that concerns him. (See suggestions in the right-hand column.) Let him see for himself what God's Word says. If he shows interest, offer the publication and arrange to call again. Continue to build on your initial conversation.

Examples of Paradise Scenes

Creation book: pages 237, 243, 251
Teacher book: pages 251-4
Knowledge book: pages 4-5, 188-9
Require brochure: pages 11, 13
True Peace book: page 98
Worship God book: pages 92-3

Matters That Concern People

Corruption, injustice
Isaiah 9:6, 7;
2 Peter 3:13

Crime, violence
Psalm 37:10, 11;
Proverbs 2:21, 22

Death, mourning
Isaiah 25:8;
Revelation 21:3, 4

Depression
Psalm 34:8;
Isaiah 65:17-19

Food shortages, malnutrition
Psalm 72:16;
Isaiah 25:6

Housing, economic problems
Isaiah 65:21, 22

Ineffective government
Psalm 146:3, 4;
Daniel 2:44

Mistreatment of animals
Proverbs 12:10

Moral breakdown
2 Timothy 3:1-5

Poverty, oppression
Psalm 72:12-14;
Ecclesiastes 8:9

Prejudice, inequality
Isaiah 11:3-5;
Acts 10:34, 35

Ruining of the earth
Revelation 11:18

Sickness, disability
Isaiah 33:24; 35:5, 6

War, terrorism
Psalm 46:8, 9;
Micah 4:3, 4

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** Any book published prior to 1990 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God*. **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Creation* book (large or small size) or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Knowledge* book, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **April:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. The objective should be to start a home Bible study, especially with individuals who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 6, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Act Wisely in a Senseless World."

■ Congregations should make appropriate arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Thursday, March 24, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. It is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial observance. However, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ A Service Meeting discussion of the video *David—He Trusted in God* will be outlined in the March issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* This video is available only on the DVD entitled *Noah Walked With God—David Trusted in God.* You can choose from eight languages on this disc—English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, and Spanish. Copies of the DVD may be requested through the congregation with the next literature request.

Video Programs on DVD

The DVD entitled *Transfusion Alternatives—Documentary Series* contains three video programs. *Transfusion-Alternative Strategies—Simple, Safe, Effective* was designed for doctors and medical students and thus includes more medical scenes than the other two programs. *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* was designed especially for medical journalists, health officials, social workers, and the judiciary. It considers how to care for patients' medical needs while also recognizing their legal rights. *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* was designed primarily for the general public. The DVD contains the English videos with additional sound tracks in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, and Spanish. Please feel free to share these programs with your doctor, Bible students, non-Witness mate, relatives, teachers, workmates, and schoolmates.

QUESTION BOX

■ What is the best way to make contributions for the benefit of needy brothers in other lands?

At times, we hear about brothers in another land who have come into material need because of persecution, disaster, or other difficult circumstances. Some brothers have been moved to send funds directly to the branch offices in such lands, requesting that the money be used to help a certain individual, a particular congregation, or a designated building project.—2 Cor. 8:1-4.

While such loving concern for fellow believers is commendable, often there are needs that are more urgent than those that the contributor has in mind. In some cases, the designated need has already been cared for. Of course, we can be confident that when contributions are sent to the local branch office for the worldwide work, the Kingdom Hall Fund, or disaster relief, those donated funds will be used as directed by the contributor.

The brothers in all the branches have been thoroughly trained to respond quickly to unanticipated needs. In all cases, the branch keeps the Governing Body informed regarding the matter. If additional assistance is needed, the Governing Body may invite nearby branches to help or funds may be sent directly from headquarters.—2 Cor. 8: 14, 15.

Therefore, all contributions intended for the worldwide work, building projects in other lands, or disaster relief should be sent to the branch office in the land in which you live, either through the congregation or directly. In this way, "the faithful and discreet slave," through the organizational arrangements set in place by the Governing Body, cares for the needs of the worldwide brotherhood in an orderly manner.—Matt. 24:45-47; 1 Cor. 14:33, 40.

How to Use Sample Presentations

[1] Sample presentations for offering our magazines and other publications appear regularly in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* When sharing in the ministry, we need not repeat these suggested presentations exactly as written. They are provided to give us an outline of what we might say. We will usually be more effective if we put the presentations in our own words. Expressing ourselves in a natural manner helps to put the householder at ease and reflects sincerity and conviction.—2 Cor. 2:17; 1 Thess. 1:5.

[2] **Tailor Your Presentation:** Our presentation of the good news is greatly affected by local customs. Can you exchange greetings with the householder and then weave your presentation into the conversation, or do people in your territory expect you to get right to the point? That varies from place to place and sometimes even from person to person. Discernment is also required in the use of questions. Questions that are appropriate in some places may make people feel uncomfortable in others. Hence, we must use good judgment and adapt our presentations according to what is acceptable locally.

[3] In addition, we need to take into account the background and thinking of the people in our territory when preparing for field service. For example, you would likely discuss Matthew 6:9, 10 with a devout Catholic differently from the way you would with a person who was unfamiliar with the "Our Father" prayer. With a little forethought, we can often tailor our presentations to make them more appealing to the people we meet in the ministry.—1 Cor. 9:20-23.

[4] Even when we plan to use a sample presentation more or less as written, there is still no substitute for good preparation. We should carefully read the article or chapter that we plan to feature and look for points that may stir interest. Then incorporate these into our presentation. Only by being familiar with the fine information in our publications can we offer them with enthusiasm.

[5] **Other Approaches:** Are we limited to using only the approaches outlined in the sample presentations? No. If you are more comfortable with another approach or a different scripture, use it. Especially with the magazines, be alert to opportunities to feature secondary articles that may be of special interest in your territory. When field service presentations are to be demonstrated at the Service Meeting, arrangements may be made to demonstrate whatever approach works in the local territory. In this way all may be helped to present the good news effectively.

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1. How should we view sample presentations that are provided?
2. Why do we need to consider local customs when preparing presentations?
3. Why consider the background and thinking of those we speak to?
4. Why is good preparation essential?
5. Why might we prepare a different presentation, and how can we do so?

What to Say About the Magazines

The Watchtower Jan. 15

"All of us desire a better life for ourselves and our children, but many feel powerless to achieve it. Do you think we can control our future? [Allow for response.] This magazine shows from the Bible that we are not powerless but that our future depends on the choices we make now." Read Deuteronomy 30:19.

Awake! Jan. 22

"When we face health problems, all of us appreciate a doctor who considers our feelings. But do you think that many patients stop to consider their doctor's feelings? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the challenges doctors face and what the future holds for the practice of medicine." Read Isaiah 33:24.

The Watchtower Feb. 1

"Is it not disturbing that so many people today are the victims of oppression and violence? [Cite a current example known locally, and allow for response.] This magazine discusses how God views human life. It also explains how he will rescue us from the suffering that exists today." Read Psalm 72:12-14.

Awake! Feb. 8

"One of the biggest challenges we face today is coping with stress. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] The Bible accurately foretold that this would be the case. [Read 2 Timothy 3:1.] This magazine provides practical suggestions that can help you and your family to cope with stress."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2005 For United States of America km-E Us 2/05 Vol. 48, No. 2

Give Thanks for Jehovah's Loving-Kindness

Christ's Death to Be Commemorated on

March 24

1 The psalmist exclaimed: "O let people give thanks to Jehovah for his loving-kindness and for his wonderful works to the sons of men." (Ps. 107:8) God's loving-kindness is more than just the tender regard he has for people. That is made clear in the inspired expression of praise: "Your own loving-kindness, O Jehovah, kept sustaining me." (Ps. 94:18) What extraordinary loving-kindness Jehovah demonstrated in giving his only-begotten Son in our behalf! —1 John 4:9, 10.

2 As the Memorial of Christ's death approaches, how can we thank "the God of loving-kindness"? (Ps. 59:17) Each of us will want to set aside time to meditate on Jesus' final days on earth. (Ps. 143:5) It will also be beneficial to follow the special Bible reading scheduled for the Memorial, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2005* and, if possible, do additional reading and research in chapters 112-16 of the *Greatest Man* book along with other Bible-based publications. Linger over the passages you read, and become absorbed in them. (1 Tim. 4:15) Prayerful reflection on God's Word not only nourishes our heart but also expresses our love for Jehovah.—Matt. 22:37.

3 **Incite Others to Thank God:** Last year 16,760,607 attended the Memorial worldwide. In a village in Liberia, the brothers wrote a letter to the town chief, informing him of their intention to observe the Lord's Evening Meal in his town. The chief gave permission for the brothers to use the local football field for the event and had an announcement made about it throughout the area, inviting people to attend. Though there were only five publishers in that village, the attendance for the Memorial was 636!

4 Likewise, we want to help as many as possible to join us for the Memorial observance. Why not make a list of those you want to invite? The illustrations on the back covers of the March 8 *Awake!* and March 15 *Watchtower* extend an invitation. The printed Memorial invitations can also be used. Type or neatly write the time and location of the commemoration on the slip, and leave one with each person you invite. As March 24 approaches, call again to remind each one and to finalize any arrangements.

5 How can we help Bible students who are not yet coming to meetings to attend and benefit fully from the event? Spend a few minutes during each study to build appreciation for the importance of the observance. Excellent material can be found in the March 15, 2004, *Watchtower,* pages 3-7, and the *Reasoning* book, pages 266-9.

6 **Welcome Visitors:** At the Memorial, approach visitors and welcome them. (Rom. 12:13) Arrange to sit with those you invited, and make sure they have a Bible and a songbook. We will especially want to take the initiative to greet warmly any inactive brothers and sisters who have made the effort to attend. Our loving interest may help them to resume regular association with the congregation. (Luke 15:3-7) On this most sacred occasion, may we do all we can to encourage others to join us in giving thanks to Jehovah for his "wonderful loving-kindness." —Ps. 31:21.

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1. How has Jehovah shown us loving-kindness?
2. How can we show our thankfulness to Jehovah?
3, 4. (a) How can we imitate the spirit of our Liberian brothers? (b) Whom do you plan to invite to the Memorial?
5. How can we encourage Bible students to attend?
6. Why is it important to welcome visitors at the Memorial?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 14

Song 174

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the February 15 *Watchtower* and the February 22 *Awake!* Briefly review how the sample presentations can be tailored to the needs of the local territory.—See the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8.

35 min: "The Memorial Season—A Time of Increased Activity."* To be handled by the service overseer. When discussing paragraph 6, include comments on the *Awake!* of September 8, 2004, pages 12-13. Announce those who have enrolled as auxiliary pioneers. Outline the extra meetings for field service that have been arranged. Encourage all to increase their spiritual activity in some way during this Memorial season.

Song 14 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 21

Song 31

10 min: Local announcements. Review main points from the box on page 6, "Help Them Receive a Further Witness." Encourage all to fill out the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form promptly when the need arises.

20 min: "Give Thanks for Jehovah's Loving-Kindness."* Announce the time and place of the Memorial along with the name of the speaker and any other pertinent details. When discussing paragraph 4, include a brief demonstration of a publisher inviting a person on his magazine route to the Memorial. The printed Memorial invitations should be made available following the meeting, if this has not already been done.

15 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 6."* Include a four-minute demonstration in which a Bible student asks why so few in attendance at the Memorial partake of the bread and the wine. The conductor commends him for his question, writes it down, and suggests that they discuss it after they consider the study material for the week. At the conclusion of the study, the conductor directs the student to the material under the question "Who is to partake of the bread and the wine?" on pages 267-8 of the *Reasoning* book. They read it together, and the student expresses appreciation for the clear answer to the question he raised.

Song 21 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 28

Song 42

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for February. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. At the conclusion of one of the presentations, show the publisher inviting the householder to the Memorial using the back cover of the March 8 *Awake!*

20 min: Show Concern for Those Who Are Weak. (Acts 20:35) Following an introduction of less than one minute, conduct a question-and-answer discussion of the July 1, 2004, *Watchtower,* pages 17-18, paragraphs 12-16, in the manner of the *Watchtower* Study. Have the paragraphs read by a brother who is a capable reader. Focus on how the information can be applied in connection with the upcoming Memorial and special talk.

10 min: Offer *Keep on the Watch!* Discuss and demonstrate presentations that can be used to offer the brochure during March. Sample presentations in the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert or other presentations that are effective in the local territory may be used.

Song 72 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 7

Song 12

10 min: Local announcements. Review main points from the box "Memorial Reminders."

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Feature Magazines in Your Ministry."* When discussing paragraphs 3 and 4, make local application of the material. Briefly interview one or two publishers who are effective in placing magazines at businesses, in street work, in public places, or when witnessing informally. Ask them to explain how they offer magazines in these settings. Have a brief demonstration of a presentation or a reenactment of an experience.

Song 192 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	245	96.4	83.4	41.0	4.1
Pios.	95,665	64.7	35.2	19.9	1.9
Aux. Pios.	22,494	49.2	29.2	12.8	1.1
Pubs.	871,682	9.3	6.9	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	990,086		Baptized: 2,331		

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The Memorial Season—A Time of Increased Activity

¹ At designated times during the year, the ancient Israelites celebrated "seasonal festivals of Jehovah." (Lev. 23:2) Taking time to reflect on the goodness of their God resulted in great joy and moved them to be zealous for pure worship.—2 Chron. 30:21–31:2.

² In modern times, our joyful theocratic activity intensifies each year during the Memorial season. It is a time when we reflect deeply on the priceless gift Jehovah gave in our behalf—his only-begotten Son. (John 3:16; 1 Pet. 1:18, 19) As we meditate on the love shown by God and his Son, we feel impelled to praise Jehovah and to exert ourselves in doing the divine will.—2 Cor. 5:14, 15.

³ This year the Lord's Evening Meal will be observed on Thursday, March 24, after sundown. How might we increase our share in the ministry during the months of March, April, and May?

How Will You Increase Your Activity?

- ■ Preach when people are at home
- ■ Witness in public places
- ■ Witness at work or school
- ■ Do telephone witnessing
- ■ Serve as an auxiliary pioneer

⁴ **Reaching More People:** Look for ways to reach as many people as possible when you share in field service. Can you plan to participate in door-to-door work when more people are at home, such as in the late afternoon or in the evening? If some in your book study group would like to share in service before the study, the book study overseer may be able to arrange to have a brief meeting for service in order to work a nearby territory.

⁵ Another way to reach many people is by witnessing in public places. A sister in Japan wanted to auxiliary pioneer even though she had a full-time job. An elder suggested that each day before going to her secular job, she might do street witnessing near a train station. After overcoming her own timidity and the ridicule of some commuters, she developed a magazine route of some 40 persons, including commuters, station workers, and nearby shop owners. She placed an average of 235 magazines a month. By sharing Scriptural points with people for just a few moments each day, she was able to start six Bible studies.

⁶ **Opportunities to Witness:** Many school-age publishers have periods of time off during the year. These may be opportune times to auxiliary pioneer. In addition, Christian youths can increase their activity by giving a witness at school. You may be surprised how curious classmates may be about your beliefs. Why not take advantage of classroom discussions or school essays to give a witness? Others have been able to do so using our videos. Some have started Bible studies with classmates and helped them progress to dedication and baptism. These are fine ways to "praise the name of Jehovah."—Ps. 148:12, 13.

⁷ In your daily routine, look for ways to speak with people about our wonderful God and his marvelous promises. One brother who travels on the same trains every day witnesses to fellow commuters when appropriate. For example, while waiting at one station for his next train, he

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1. What effect did "seasonal festivals" have on God-fearing Israelites?

2, 3. Why is it fitting that we increase our spiritual activity during the Memorial season, and when will we observe the Memorial?

4, 5. (a) What has helped some to reach more people with the good news? (b) What have you found to be effective locally?

6. How might youths increase their spiritual activity?

7. (a) How did one brother take advantage of opportunities to witness to others? (b) Have you enjoyed a similar experience?

witnessed to a young man each day for about five minutes. As a result, the young man and his colleague agreed to a Bible study. The Bible study was conducted on the train as they traveled. Some time later, an elderly woman who had been listening to their conversations approached the brother and asked him for a Bible study. She too is enjoying her study on the days she uses the train. In this way, the brother has studied with ten different individuals on the train.

8 What if you are limited in what you can do because of advanced age or health problems? There may still be ways you can increase your praise to Jehovah. Have you tried telephone witnessing? If you are unsure of how to go about this, mention it to your book study overseer. He may be able to arrange for publishers who use this method to work with you. Working together as partners, you can learn from one another and help one another to give an effective witness. Fine suggestions for doing telephone witnessing can be found in the February 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* pages 5-6.

9 Attending the Memorial may stimulate new ones to want to increase their praise to Jehovah. You can help them to overcome any apprehension they may have about sharing in the formal preaching work by relating positive field service experiences and by progressively training them to explain Bible teachings and defend their faith. (1 Pet. 3:15) If a Bible student expresses a desire to begin publishing the good news, speak with the presiding overseer. He will arrange for a meeting with the student to determine whether he qualifies to share with the congregation in the public ministry. How it must make Jehovah's heart rejoice to see new ones take their stand on his side of the universal issue! —Prov. 27:11.

10 **Can You Auxiliary Pioneer?** The auxiliary pioneer requirement of 50 hours should be viewed seriously. (Matt. 5:37) This means that you will need to arrange to spend an average of 12 hours in field service each week. Does one of the sample auxiliary pioneer schedules on page 5 fit your circumstances? If not, can you arrange a schedule that will enable you to auxiliary pioneer in March, April, or May? Ask Jehovah to bless your efforts to increase your service activity.—Prov. 16:3.

11 The elders and ministerial servants will fully support your endeavors to make this Memorial season one of special praise to Jehovah. Likely, many of them will be auxiliary pioneering. The elders will arrange to have extra meetings for service, such as in late afternoons, on weekday evenings, and on weekends, as needed. To determine where and when such meetings will be held and who will be available to take the lead, the elders may speak with those who have definite plans to pioneer or who are considering doing so. The elders will strive to coordinate the arrangements so that there will be other publishers to work with on the days and times that you have set aside for service. In this way, plans can be firmly established and much good can be accomplished.—Prov. 20:18.

12 **Do Your Utmost:** If your circumstances do not allow you to auxiliary pioneer, remember that Jehovah accepts our efforts and sacrifices 'according to what we have, not according to what we do not have.' (2 Cor. 8:12) We have so much for which to thank Jehovah. With good reason David wrote: "I will bless Jehovah at all times; constantly his praise will be in my mouth." (Ps. 34:1) May that be our determination during this Memorial season.

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8. What avenue of service may enable those limited by advanced age or health problems to increase their share in the ministry?

9. How can we help Bible students to qualify to share with the congregation in the public ministry?

10. (a) How can a good schedule help us to auxiliary pioneer? (b) Were you able to arrange to auxiliary pioneer last year during the Memorial season? How so?

11. How can the elders and ministerial servants support those who will be serving as auxiliary pioneers?

12. What moves us to praise Jehovah at all times?

Sample Auxiliary Pioneer Schedules

Ways to Schedule 12 Hours
of Field Service Each Week

Mornings—Monday Through Saturday

Sunday may be substituted for any day.

Day	Period	Hours
Monday	Morning	2
Tuesday	Morning	2
Wednesday	Morning	2
Thursday	Morning	2
Friday	Morning	2
Saturday	Morning	2
Total Hours:		12

Two Full Days

Any two days of the week may be selected.
(Depending on the days selected, this schedule might total only 48 hours for the month.)

Day	Period	Hours
Wednesday	Full Day	6
Saturday	Full Day	6
Total Hours:		12

Two Evenings and the Weekend

Any two weekday evenings may be selected.

Day	Period	Hours
Monday	Evening	1½
Wednesday	Evening	1½
Saturday	Full Day	6
Sunday	Half Day	3
Total Hours:		12

Three Afternoons and Saturday

Sunday may be substituted for any day.

Day	Period	Hours
Monday	Afternoon	2
Wednesday	Afternoon	2
Friday	Afternoon	2
Saturday	Full Day	6
Total Hours:		12

My Personal Service Schedule

Decide the number of hours for each period.

Day	Period	Hours
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		
Total Hours:		12

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Thursday, March 24. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.
- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.
- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 2003, *Watchtower,* pp. 14-15.
- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.
- The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.
- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.
- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.
- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
Part 6: When a Student Raises a Question

[1] Once a Bible study is well established, it is usually best to consider Bible teachings in an orderly manner rather than jump from subject to subject. This helps the student to build a foundation of accurate knowledge and to progress spiritually. (Col. 1: 9, 10) Often, though, students raise questions on various subjects during the study. How should these be handled?

[2] **Be Discerning:** Questions related to the study material being considered can usually be answered on the spot. If a question will be addressed later in the study publication, it may be sufficient simply to point that out. However, if a question is unrelated to the study material or will require research to answer properly, it may be better to consider the matter after the study or at another time. Some find that writing the question down assures the student that his question is being taken seriously and helps prevent the study from becoming sidetracked.

[3] Many Bible teachings are considered only briefly in our basic study publications. What if a student has difficulty accepting a certain teaching or holds strongly to a false belief? It may be beneficial to consider additional material that thoroughly discusses what the Bible says on that subject. If the student is still not convinced, leave the subject for another time and continue on with his regular study. (John 16:12) As he gains a broader knowledge of the Bible and progresses spiritually, he may come to understand that Bible teaching.

[4] **Be Modest:** If you are not sure of the answer to a question, resist the temptation to venture an opinion. (2 Tim. 2: 15; 1 Pet. 4:11) Explain that you will research the matter and return with an answer. You might even use the opportunity to teach the student how to do research. Progressively show him how to use the various research tools provided by Jehovah's organization. In this way he will eventually be able to answer his own questions. —Acts 17:11.

Help Them Receive a Further Witness

[1] As we share the good news, we often meet people who live outside our territory or who speak another language, including sign language. Others with whom we have enjoyed good Bible discussions may move out of our territory. How can we arrange for such ones to receive a further witness? By using the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form.

[2] People often listen more intently to the good news when it is presented in their mother tongue. (Acts 22:1, 2) Hence, in most cases, when we meet someone who speaks another language, we should fill out the form *even if the person does not show interest in the Kingdom message.* However, where there is a sizable foreign-language population that is regularly receiving a witness in their own language, it may not be necessary to fill out the form except when interest is shown.

[3] **Filling Out the Form:** Tactfully endeavor to obtain the person's name, his address, and his telephone number. Indicate the degree of interest shown, when the person can be reached, the literature that was placed or requested, and the language that the person best understands. After completing the form, promptly give it to the congregation secretary, who will forward it to the appropriate congregation or group.

[4] **Forwarding the Form:** If the secretary does not know which congregation or group should receive the form or does not have the mailing address, he may telephone the Territory Desk at the branch office to obtain the needed information. It is no longer necessary to involve the city overseer when forwarding the form.

[5] Whenever a congregation or a group receives a completed *Please Follow Up* form, arrangements should be made to call on the person promptly. As we diligently do our part, we can be confident that Jehovah will open the hearts of those who are "rightly disposed for everlasting life." —Acts 13:48.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Creation* book (large or small size) or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Knowledge* book, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. The objective should be to start a home Bible study, especially with individuals who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

- The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review the annual S-201 letters.

- The special public talk for the 2005 Memorial season will be entitled "Why Did Jesus Suffer and Die?" See the related announcement in the September 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

- All will want to be present at the Public Meeting on Sunday, March 20, for a special announcement regarding a provision that will be made available to publishers.

- The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following Saturdays: March 12, 2005 (Gilead graduation); May 14, 2005 (spring cleaning); September 10, 2005 (Gilead graduation); and October 1, 2005 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania). The branch facilities in Wallkill only will be closed on Monday, May 16, 2005. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 28, 2005. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 3 through February 28, 2005. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we make our speech more understandable? [*be* p. 226 par. 1–p. 227 par. 1]
2. What types of terms may require additional explanation? [*be* p. 227 par. 2–p. 228 par. 1]
3. What approach will help us to present material in a way that truly informs our listeners? [*be* p. 231 pars. 1-3]
4. How can we make the reading of a familiar scripture informative to our audience? [*be* p. 231 pars. 4-5]
5. What might be the effect of encouraging our listeners to focus on details in a familiar Bible account? [*be* p. 232 pars. 2-4]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is included in teaching people to "fear the true God and keep his commandments"? (Eccl. 12:13) [*be* p. 272 par. 3–p. 273 par. 1]
7. How can we call attention not just to the name Jehovah but to the person behind the name? (Joel 2:32) [*be* p. 274 pars. 3-5]
8. How important is it to take in knowledge of Jesus and to bear witness to him? (John 17:3) [*be* p. 276 par. 1]
9. How are having an approved relationship with God and an understanding of the Bible directly linked to appreciation for Jesus? [*be* p. 276 par. 2]
10. How can we demonstrate that we truly believe that Jesus Christ is King? [*be* p. 277 par. 4]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Was Abraham's father, Terah, a worshiper of idols? (Josh. 24:2)
12. Did Gideon lack courage to fulfill the assignment Jehovah had given him? Why do you so answer? (Judg. 6:25-27)
13. What can we learn from the way in which Gideon addressed the tribe of Ephraim? (Judg. 8:1-3)
14. What was indicated by the unwillingness of the people of Gibeah to extend hospitality? (Judg. 19:14, 15)
15. If 'each one was accustomed to do what was right in his own eyes,' did this foster anarchy? (Judg. 21:25)

Feature Magazines in Your Ministry

[1] "Interesting, timely, and uplifting." "The most encouraging journals I've ever read." These comments well describe how readers the world over feel about *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Indeed, our magazines have proved to be invaluable tools in reaching "all sorts of men" with the good news. —1 Tim. 2:4.

[2] A career-oriented man obtained an *Awake!* magazine on a subject that interested him. Later, he read the accompanying issue of *The Watchtower,* which contained an article that prompted him to scrutinize his lifelong belief in the Trinity. This sparked his interest. Six months later he was baptized. Another man regularly received the magazines but never read them. His wife, on the other hand, avoided the Witnesses but read the magazines left with her husband. Her heart was touched by the Bible's promise of an earthly paradise filled with righteous people. In time, she, her son, and her sister became servants of Jehovah.

[3] **Offer Them as a Set:** As the foregoing examples show, we cannot be sure who will read our magazines or what may arouse their interest. (Eccl. 11:6) Therefore, it is advantageous to offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* together as a set, even though we will generally highlight only one magazine in our presentation. In certain circumstances, it may be appropriate to offer several different issues of our magazines on a visit.

[4] It is beneficial to schedule one day each week to share in magazine work. On the *2005 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses,* every Saturday is designated as "Magazine Day." Of course, since local and personal circumstances vary, some may set aside another day to focus on offering our journals. Is this part of your weekly schedule?

[5] **Set a Personal Goal:** Setting a personal monthly goal of magazine placements can help us to be more magazine conscious. Do you have a magazine route? Do you offer magazines to those whom you meet in the ministry? Could you offer magazines in street work, in business territory, and in public places? Do you carry magazines with you when traveling, shopping, and going to appointments? Take advantage of every appropriate opportunity to help others benefit from *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

[6] We might also make it our aim to place older issues that we have on hand. Even if magazines are not placed within a month or two of the issue date, the information retains its value. Get them into the hands of interested ones. For millions of people, the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines have been "a word . . . at the right time." (Prov. 25:11) Let us use them to help millions more come to know and serve Jehovah.

1, 2. How have *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* touched people's lives?

3. What is the advantage of offering the magazines as a set?

4. How might we schedule magazine work?

5. What opportunities to place magazines should we be alert to, and what can help us to do so?

6. How can we make good use of older issues of the magazines?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Feb. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"At times, we hear reports in which it is claimed that a miracle has occurred. [Mention an example.] Some people believe these reports. Others are skeptical. This magazine examines whether the miracles reported in the Bible really occurred and whether such things happen today." Read Jeremiah 32:21.

Awake! Feb. 22

"In ancient times, God commanded children to honor their mother as well as their father. [Read Exodus 20:12.] Do you think that mothers are being properly honored today? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the challenges that mothers in various lands are facing and how they are meeting those challenges."

THE WATCHTOWER Mar. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Do you think the world would be a better place if everyone applied this advice? [Read Romans 12:17, 18. Then allow for response.] Sadly, personal differences sometimes occur. This magazine shows how applying the Bible's counsel can help us to resolve conflicts and restore peace."

Awake! Mar. 8

"Each year, the demand for energy grows. Can you imagine what would happen if one day the energy we need ran out? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses the progress that has been made in developing cleaner energy sources. It also identifies the Source of all energy." Read Isaiah 40:26.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 3/05 Vol. 48, No. 3

More Emphasis on the Bible!

[1] On October 1, 1919, the first issue of the magazine *The Golden Age* was published. It proved to be a most valuable tool in the preaching work. Why? Because it was specially designed for the public. That was not the case with *The Watchtower,* which for many years was viewed as a magazine largely for the "little flock." (Luke 12:32) Kingdom publishers responded with such enthusiasm to the new publication that for many years the circulation of *The Golden Age* was far in excess of that of *The Watchtower*.

[2] The magazine *The Golden Age* was published to show people that the real solution to mankind's problems is Christ's Millennial Reign, which will truly usher in a golden age for humankind. In succeeding decades a number of adjustments were made to *The Golden Age* to meet the changing needs of the times. In 1937 its name was changed to *Consolation*. In 1946 it became *Awake!,* the name we know it by today.

[3] From its beginning, this magazine has contributed mightily to the great witness that has been given since 1919. (Matt. 24:14) However, in view of the urgency of our times, it seems wise to make further adjustments to *Awake!*

[4] Millions of people enjoy reading *Awake!* because it covers a wide variety of secular topics in an appealing way. No doubt the majority of those who attend the Memorial each year are regular readers of *Awake!* Still, if anyone hopes to be concealed in "the day of Jehovah's anger," he will need help to do more than be a regular reader of our publications.—Zeph. 2:3; Rev. 14:6, 7.

[5] Hence, from January 2006, *Awake!* will place greater emphasis on God's Kingdom. It will encourage readers more straightforwardly to look to the Bible for the solutions to their problems and will highlight more prominently the Bible's explanation of current events. In this way, readers will get a better understanding of current events and perhaps be moved by what they read to learn more about Jehovah.—Zech. 8:23.

[6] *Awake!* will continue to feature topics of general interest. However, more emphasis will be laid on the Bible. (1 Thess. 2:13) Since *The Watchtower* contains deep Biblical information and *Awake!* will feature more material that is Scriptural in nature, it does not seem necessary to continue publishing *Awake!* twice a month. Therefore, beginning with its January 2006 issue, *Awake!* will be published as a monthly magazine. This will result in considerable simplification in the preparation, translation, and shipping of our literature.

[7] This change will affect about 40 percent of the languages in which *Awake!* is published. In most languages, *Awake!* is already a monthly or a quarterly publication. There will be no change in the publication of *The Watchtower*.

[8] Publishers may offer each month's *Awake!* with either issue of *The Watchtower* for that month. Those who feature *Awake!* will be able to use the same issue all through the month without having to change their presentation in the middle of the month, as at present.

[9] Since its first issue back in 1919, the magazine successively known as *The Golden Age, Consolation,* and now *Awake!* has played a major role in the preaching work. We pray that Jehovah will continue to bless the distribution of the magazine in its revised format and that it will help many more people out of "all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues" to turn to God's Kingdom as their only hope.—Rev. 7:9.

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1. Originally, for whom was *The Watchtower* primarily published, and for whom *The Golden Age*?
2. What is the name of *The Golden Age* today, and what has been its purpose from the beginning?
3. *Awake!* has been a powerful tool in the fulfillment of what prophecy?
4. (a) What does a person need to do if he is to be concealed in "the day of Jehovah's anger"? (b) According to Revelation 14:6, 7, what does the "angel flying in midheaven" call on all to do?
5. (a) Starting with the *Awake!* of January 2006, what will be featured more prominently? (b) What may many be moved to do, and in fulfillment of what prophecy?

6, 7. (a) How will *Awake!* seek to help many to apply 1 Thessalonians 2:13? (b) How frequently will *Awake!* be published, and how many languages will be affected by the change?

8. How may publishers use *Awake!* along with *The Watchtower?*
9. What role will *Awake!* continue to play?

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting March 14

Song 132

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to watch the video *David —He Trusted in God* in preparation for the Service Meeting the week of April 4. Use the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the March 15 *Watchtower* and the March 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one of the presentations, demonstrate making a return visit on a magazine-route call. When concluding the presentation, use the back cover of the March 15 *Watchtower* to remind the householder of the upcoming Memorial observance.

20 min: "More Emphasis on the Bible!"*

15 min: A Provision to Strengthen Us. Following an introduction of less than a minute, conduct an audience discussion of the *2005 Yearbook*. Meditating on Jehovah's marvelous activity in modern times draws us close to him and to our brothers worldwide. (Ps. 77:12-14) It fortifies us to take our stand against the Devil, "solid in the faith." (1 Pet. 5: 8, 9) It helps new ones develop appreciation for Jehovah's organization. Invite audience to relate points they appreciate from their reading of the *2005 Yearbook*. Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on how they schedule their personal reading of the *Yearbook.*

Song 137 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 21

Song 140

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 7."* When preparing this part, consult the July 15, 2002, *Watchtower*, page 27, paragraphs 5-6.

20 min: What Is Armageddon? Following an introduction of less than a minute, conduct a question-and-answer discussion based on pages 44-9 of the *Reasoning* book. Invite the audience to comment on the questions in bold type, using the quoted and cited scriptures. Discuss how we can use this information in the field ministry.

Song 109 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 28

Song 144

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind all to watch the video *David—He Trusted in God* in preparation for next week's Service Meeting. Encourage all to invite interested ones to attend the special public talk on April 10. Mention the literature offer for April and May.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Feature *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Review the suggestions for increasing magazine placements in the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8. Discuss talking points in the current issues of the magazines. Using the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In each of the presentations, explain how our worldwide work is financed.—See *The Watchtower,* p. 2, or *Awake!* p. 5.

Song 116 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 4

Song 119

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Have Love Among Yourselves. (John 13:35) Talk by an elder based on the February 1, 2003, *Watchtower,* pages 15-18, paragraphs 10-21. As mentioned in the literature offer for April and May, we are encouraged to try to start Bible studies with those who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. Highlight how publishers can work in cooperation with the elders in assisting those who are weak.

25 min: "A Video With a Timeless Message." Read Psalm 91:2 and 31:14, making a very brief comment on each. Then get right into an audience discussion of the quiz for the *David* video, using all the questions listed in the second paragraph as well as the question posed in the third paragraph. Afterward, ask families to relate how they have benefited from participating in the suggested "Learning Activities" on the DVD. Conclude by reading Psalm 56:11.

Song 36 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**230**	**97.4**	**83.1**	**45.2**	**4.4**
Pios.	**96,052**	**62.9**	**38.8**	**20.1**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**17,732**	**48.7**	**32.4**	**13.3**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**883,236**	**8.9**	**7.4**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**997,250**		Baptized: **1,923**		

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 96,052 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 292 over the previous peak of 95,760 in October 2004.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **March:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Knowledge* book, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. The objective should be to start a home Bible study, especially with individuals who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book or the *Knowledge* book and make an effort to start Bible studies.

■ In the United States, any direction you write on the DPA card, including medical options, should be in English. This will help to ensure that medical personnel fully understand your wishes. Book study overseers in non-English-language congregations should see that all are given assistance in this matter as needed.

■ Congregations should release the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as soon as they are received. That will allow publishers to become familiar with the contents before offering the magazines in field service. *Our Kingdom Ministry* also should be released to the publishers as soon as it arrives. It may be distributed through the Congregation Book Study arrangement.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) and *Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service* (S-205b). These can be ordered on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply.

■ The Memorial will be held on Thursday, March 24, 2005. If your congregation normally has meetings on Thursday, these are to be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If this is not possible and your Service Meeting is affected, the parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation may be incorporated into another Service Meeting.

■ A number of publishers have telephoned the branch office regarding certain recordings of Kingdom songs sung in a popular style that are presently being circulated among Jehovah's Witnesses. They wonder if these recordings have the organization's approval. We are aware of these recordings and would like to inform you that they do not have our approval. Please do not circulate or download these recordings from the Internet. We trust this information will clarify matters.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.

A Video With a Timeless Message

What is the message in the video *David—He Trusted in God?* That we, like David, must trust in Jehovah. (Ps. 91:2) Seeing major events in David's life portrayed will help children and adults to learn from the example he set. (Ps. 31:14) For our added benefit, this DVD includes a "Video Quiz" and several "Learning Activities."

Watch the video, and then quiz yourself: **(1)** Why did Jehovah choose a better king? (1 Sam. 15:10, 11; 16:1) **(2)** Why did he not choose any of David's brothers? (1 Sam. 16:6, 7) **(3)** Why did Saul like David to play the harp? (1 Sam. 16:14-23) **(4)** Who was Goliath? (1 Sam. 17:4-10) **(5)** Why did David want to fight Goliath? (1 Sam. 17:23, 24, 36, 37) **(6)** Who was Jonathan? (1 Sam. 14:1) **(7)** At what point did Saul become David's worst enemy? (1 Sam. 18:25-29) **(8)** Why did David not kill Saul? (1 Sam. 26:7-11) **(9)** How did Saul die? (1 Sam. 31:1-6) **(10)** What was David's reaction to Jonathan's death? (2 Sam. 1:11, 12) **(11)** What promise did Jehovah make to David? (2 Sam. 7:12, 13, 16) **(12)** What serious mistake did David make? (2 Sam. 11:1-5, 14-17) **(13)** How did David show that he was very sorry for what he had done? (Ps. 51) **(14)** What lessons did David share with young Solomon? (1 Ki. 2:1-4; 1 Chron. 22:6-13; 28:9, 10) **(15)** How will Jesus' rule benefit David, Jonathan, and you?—Isa. 11:6-9; John 11:25, 26.

Now reflect: How can you personally imitate the trust in God that David displayed?

Parents, impress upon your children the timeless importance of trusting in God, as David did.—Ps. 56:11.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
Part 7: Offering Prayer at the Study

1 In order for Bible students to make spiritual progress, Jehovah's blessing is essential. (1 Cor. 3:6) Therefore, it is proper to open and close an established study with prayer. We can often do this from the very first study with people who are religiously inclined. With others, we may need to discern the appropriate time to introduce prayer. You might use Psalm 25:4, 5 and 1 John 5:14 to help the student see why prayer should be offered and also use John 15:16 to explain the importance of praying to Jehovah through Jesus Christ.

2 Who should offer prayer at a Bible study? If a baptized brother accompanies a sister on a study, he would offer prayer, although the sister might conduct the study while wearing a head covering. (1 Cor. 11:5, 10) On the other hand, if an unbaptized male Kingdom publisher accompanies a sister on a study, she would offer prayer. In such a situation, she should wear a head covering when praying as well as when conducting.

3 **What the Prayer May Include:** Prayers at a Bible study need not be lengthy, but they should be specific. Besides seeking God's blessing on the study and giving thanks for the truths learned, it is fitting to give praise to Jehovah as the Source of instruction. (Isa. 54:13) We can also include expressions that reflect our sincere interest in the student and our appreciation for the organization that Jehovah is using. (1 Thess. 1:2, 3; 2:7, 8) Our asking for Jehovah's blessing on the student's efforts to apply what he is learning can help him to see the importance of being a 'doer of the word.'—Jas. 1:22.

4 Many are the benefits of prayer. It brings God's blessing. (Luke 11:13) It emphasizes the seriousness of studying God's Word. As the student listens to our prayers, he is learning how to pray. (Luke 6:40) Moreover, prayers that spring from a heart filled with love for God and gratitude for his matchless qualities can help the student to develop a personal relationship with Jehovah.

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1. (a) Why is it proper to open and close a Bible study with prayer? (b) How can we introduce prayer at a Bible study?

2. If a sister is accompanied on a Bible study by a baptized brother or by an unbaptized male publisher, who would offer prayer?

3. What are appropriate matters to include in the prayers offered at a Bible study?

4. Opening and closing a Bible study with prayer brings what benefits?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Mar. 15

"People around the globe praise Jesus' teachings. [Read quote on page 3, paragraph 1.] But do you think that those teachings, such as the example found in this scripture, are practical today? [Read Matthew 5:21, 22a. Then allow for response.] This magazine considers what Jesus taught and how we can benefit from it."

Awake! Mar. 22

"Many people love the mountains for their beauty, but did you know that they are vital for life on earth? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses why we need mountains and what is happening to them today. It also mentions how the Creator will save this important resource." Read Psalm 95:4.

THE WATCHTOWER Apr. 1

"Have you heard it said that science and the Bible contradict each other? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the history of conflict between science and *religion*. But it also presents evidence to show that true science harmonizes with the Bible." Show pages 6-7. Then read Ecclesiastes 1:7.

Awake! Apr. 8

"How do you think parents can help their children avoid problems during the difficult teenage years? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 48:17, 18.] This magazine shows how applying Bible counsel can help parents to promote good communication with their children and to set reasonable limits for them."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/05 Vol. 48, No. 4

Persist in Preaching

1 Critical times are here. Civil strife, ethnic wars, natural disasters, and other horrific events are commonplace. Now more than ever, the human family needs good news. However, apathy toward spiritual things is widespread. In some areas, it may be difficult to find people at home and even harder to find people who will listen to us or who want to study the Bible. Even so, it is vital that we persist in preaching the good news of God's established Kingdom.—Matt. 24:14.

2 **Love for People:** Our preaching underscores Jehovah's love for people. “He does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance.” (2 Pet. 3:9; Ezek. 33:11) Hence, he has decreed that, as Jesus said, “in all the nations the good news has to be preached *first.*” (Mark 13:10) God appeals to people to turn to him and escape the coming judgment on Satan's world. (Joel 2:28, 29, 32; Zeph. 2:2, 3) Are we not grateful that Jehovah extended that opportunity to us?—1 Tim. 1:12, 13.

3 The worldwide report shows that during the 2004 service year, an average of 6,085,387 Bible studies were conducted each month, and an average of some 5,000 new disciples were baptized *each week!* Some of these newly dedicated ones were found as a result of Jehovah's blessing on the persistent endeavors of publishers who made an effort to speak with everyone in their assigned territories. What joy that has produced in the congregations, and what a privilege it is to be a fellow worker with God in this lifesaving work!—1 Cor. 3:5, 6, 9.

4 **Praising God's Name:** We persist in preaching in order to praise Jehovah publicly and to sanctify his name before all mankind. (Heb. 13:15) Satan has misled “the entire inhabited earth” into believing that God is powerless to solve mankind's problems, that he is indifferent to human suffering, or that he simply does not exist. (Rev. 12:9) By our preaching, we champion the truth about our magnificent heavenly Father. May we continue to praise his name—now and forever.—Ps. 145:1, 2.

Do Good and Share With Others

1 Dorcas “abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy.” (Acts 9:36, 39) Her generous spirit endeared her both to the people who knew her and to Jehovah God. Hebrews 13:16 says: “Do not forget the doing of good and the sharing of things with others, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.” How can we do good and share with others today?

2 One way we can benefit others is by sharing our “valuable things.” (Prov. 3:9) Our contributions to the worldwide work make it possible for Kingdom Halls, Assembly Halls, and branch facilities to be built throughout the world. Our generosity has enabled millions to benefit from theocratic instruction and upbuilding spiritual association.

3 **Sharing Comfort:** When disaster strikes, Jehovah's people are ready to “work what is good” toward fellow believers as well as toward those who do not share our faith. (Gal. 6:10) Following an explosion in a chemical plant in France, one couple who lived next to the plant stated: “Our Christian brothers came immediately to help clean up our apartment as well as those of others in the building. Our neighbors were very surprised to see that so many people came to help.” Another sister added: “The elders rallied around us. They came to encourage us. In fact, this was what we needed, more than material help.”

4 While there are many ways that we can do good to our neighbors, the most beneficial way we can help them is to share the precious knowledge of the truth, which includes the “hope of the everlasting life” promised by Jehovah himself. (Titus 1:1, 2) The Bible's message brings true comfort to those who are mourning over world conditions and their own sinful state. (Matt. 5:4) May we do good and share with others when it is in the power of our hand to do so.—Prov. 3:27.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Note: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Godly Obedience" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat counsel and reminders from this month's insert that apply locally. A month or two following your convention, set aside 15 to 20 minutes on a Service Meeting (perhaps using a local needs portion) for a review of convention highlights that the publishers have found to be helpful in the field ministry. The special Service Meeting part will give us the opportunity to explain how we are using what we learned at the convention and how that has helped make our ministry more effective.

Week Starting April 11

Song 4

15 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the April 15 *Watchtower* and the April 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one of the demonstrations, show the publisher engaging in street witnessing.

15 min: "Persist in Preaching."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

15 min: "Do Good and Share With Others."* Make local application of the material, mentioning practical ways that we can assist others.

Song 47 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 18

Song 76

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 8."* Include a brief demonstration in which a publisher provides a new Bible student with a copy of the brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* The publisher draws attention to the picture on page 20 of the brochure and briefly describes the Public Meeting. He mentions the title of the next public talk and invites the student to attend.

15 min: Living With Soundness of Mind in an Electronic Age. (Titus 2:11, 12) A talk based on the September 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8, paragraphs 1-7, and the November 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 5, paragraphs 24-6, and page 6, paragraphs 35-6. As time permits, other points from the November 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert may be included if applicable locally.

Song 169 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 25

Song 111

15 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in April field service reports. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one of the presentations, demonstrate how to handle the conversation stopper "I'm not interested." (See *Reasoning* book, p. 16.) Mention articles that may more readily appeal to people in the territory.

30 min: "Laud Jehovah in the Big Congregation."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. Mention the convention to which the congregation is assigned. Consider the numbered paragraphs in the manner of the *Watchtower* Study. Have the paragraphs read by an assigned reader. Review the box "District Convention Reminders."

Song 8 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 2

Song 148

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly review the article "Studying the *Keep on the Watch!* Brochure," on page 6. Mention that this material outlines the schedule for consideration of the brochure. Encourage all to prepare well for and participate each week in the study, starting the week of May 23.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "All Sorts of Men Will Be Saved."* Make practical application of the material to the local territory.

Song 112 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**216**	**97.0**	**84.6**	**45.4**	**4.5**
Pios.	**95,389**	**62.2**	**38.9**	**20.3**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**15,825**	**48.5**	**33.8**	**13.9**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**878,935**	**8.8**	**7.5**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**990,365**			Baptized:	**1,419**

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All Sorts of Men Will Be Saved

[1] God's undeserved kindness has opened the way to salvation. It is Jehovah's will that "all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) Our standing with God depends, not on our race, social standing, abilities, or outward appearance, but on our exercising faith in Jesus' ransom sacrifice. (John 3:16, 36) As God's fellow workers, we must rid ourselves of any bias, which may incline our hearts to reject people whom Jehovah is willing to accept.

[2] **Avoid Judging:** Jehovah looks at what people are on the inside, without malice or partiality. (1 Sam. 16:7) He also sees them for what they can be. Thus, he views those wanting to please him as desirable. (Hag. 2:7) Do we view others as God does?

"God is not partial, but in every nation the man that fears him and works righteousness is acceptable to him."—Acts 10:34, 35.

[3] Some people we meet in the ministry may shock us by their appearance. They may dress shabbily or immodestly, have unkempt beards, or display nose or lip rings. Some may be homeless. Others may treat us harshly. Rather than judging such ones as never likely to become worshipers of Jehovah, we should have a positive attitude, "for even we were once senseless, disobedient, [and] being misled." (Titus 3:3) Realizing this, we will be eager to preach to everyone, even to those who, from outward appearances, might seem unworthy.

[4] **First-Century Examples:** Jesus Christ took time to help those whom others may have dismissed as beyond hope. (Luke 8:26-39) While never condoning wrong practices, he knew that people could get caught up in a wrong way of life. (Luke 7:37, 38, 44-48) Thus, he showed understanding, being "moved with pity for them, because they were as sheep without a shepherd." (Mark 6:34) Can we imitate his example more fully?

[5] The apostle Paul was stoned, beaten, and imprisoned. (Acts 14:19; 16:22, 23) Did such harsh experiences cause him to become bitter and to conclude that he was wasting his time among certain nations and ethnic groups? Not at all. He knew that honesthearted individuals could be found among all ethnic groups, and he was determined to find them. Is that how we view those in our territory who are from different backgrounds and cultures?

[6] **Welcoming Others Today:** Many of God's people are happy that they were welcomed into the congregation by brothers and sisters who looked beyond outward appearance. A man with an unkempt beard and shoulder-length hair, dressed in dirty clothes, arrived at a Kingdom Hall in Germany. He had a bad reputation. Nevertheless, he was warmly welcomed at the meeting. He was so impressed that he returned a week later. In a short time, he cleaned up his appearance, stopped smoking, and legalized his relationship with his girlfriend. Before long, they and their children were serving Jehovah as a united family.

[7] In imitation of our impartial God, may we extend the invitation to benefit from God's undeserved kindness to everyone.

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1. On what does our standing with God depend?

2, 3. What can help us not to judge people by their outward appearance?

4, 5. What do we learn from the examples of Jesus and Paul?

6. What effect can our attitude have on new ones at congregation meetings?

7. How can we imitate our impartial God?

Laud Jehovah in the Big Congregation

[1] *Our* district conventions each year provide us with a marvelous opportunity to glorify Jehovah. Our feelings are as those of David, who sang: "I will laud you in the big congregation; among a numerous people I shall praise you." (Ps. 35:18) At the upcoming "Godly Obedience" District Convention, how can we make certain that as a united people, we are a cause for praise to Jehovah?

[2] One way that we can do this is through our conduct. The management of one convention facility said: "Based on your conventions, we have told other religious groups wanting to rent the facility to come and see how Jehovah's Witnesses put on a convention, as they have a perfect arrangement." By our appearance, our cooperation, and our conduct, each of us contributes to such glowing expressions of praise, which rightly belong to our God.—1 Pet. 2:12.

[3] **Personal Appearance:** To dress and groom ourselves in a manner that brings praise to Jehovah requires modesty. (1 Tim. 2:9) The *Ministry School* book, page 132, says: "A person who is modest is concerned about not needlessly offending others and not drawing undue attention to himself." In many lands, immodest clothing has become commonplace. However, Jehovah appreciates the effort we put forth to represent him properly. (Acts 15:14) Although the convention may be held in a sports center or recreational facility, the gathering becomes our "big congregation" during the three days of the convention. Hence, as we assemble before Jehovah, we should dress with the dignity due the highest Personage in the universe.—1 Chron. 29:11.

[4] We also need to give attention to our appearance following the closing session each day. Even though we may desire to wear more comfortable clothes during leisure time or during a meal at a restaurant, it is important that our dress and grooming still befit those "professing to reverence God." (1 Tim. 2:10) Acceptable dress is not determined by what is popular in the world. (1 John 2:16, 17) Our Christian publications provide helpful illustrations of modest, well-arranged dress of men and women in various circumstances. Wearing our badge cards while in the convention city will serve as a reminder that we are Christian ministers at all times.—2 Cor. 6:3, 4.

[5] **Respect Jehovah's Table:** The Sovereign Lord of the universe has spread before us a feast. (Isa. 25:6; 1 Cor. 10:21) If we highly treasure our place at Jehovah's spiritual table, our goal will be to attend all three days of the convention. Have you arranged for accommodations, transportation, and time off from secular work? Have you allotted sufficient time for preparation and travel so that you can arrive at the convention site early enough to find seats, to associate with your brothers, and to join them in giving praise to Jehovah in the opening song and prayer? —Ps. 147:1.

[6] Respect for Jehovah's table will move us to pay close attention to the program and to avoid needlessly talking with others, eating, or walking about in the corridors. Through the faithful and discreet slave class, Jehovah is providing the spiritual food that we need right now. (Matt. 24:45) None of us can afford to miss any of it. Parents should sit with their children and help them to benefit fully. —Deut. 31:12.

[7] It is requested that we bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain food during the noon break. It was commendable that most delegates carefully followed this direction at last year's convention. How good it would be if all would do so this year! (Heb. 13:17) This arrangement provides a fine opportunity to enjoy upbuilding fellowship with our brothers and contributes to an atmosphere of unity and peace that brings honor to Jehovah.—Ps. 133:1.

1, 2. With what opportunity does the district convention provide us, and in what ways can we accomplish this?

3, 4. How will modesty help us to dress in a way that befits Christian ministers, both at the convention and following the sessions?

5, 6. How can we show respect for Jehovah's spiritual table?

7. What are we requested to do for the noon meal, and why?

[8] **Witnessing Informally:** While traveling to and from the convention site, we have many opportunities to praise Jehovah with our lips. (Heb. 13:15) Whether we are eating at a restaurant or conversing with hotel personnel, let us look for ways to give a witness. Our minds and hearts will be full of spiritual treasures from the convention. Let us share these good things with those we meet informally.—1 Pet. 3:15.

[9] We look forward with keen anticipation to this opportunity to bless Jehovah "among the congregated throngs." (Ps. 26:12) May we unitedly laud Jehovah at the "Godly Obedience" District Convention.

8, 9. What additional opportunity to praise Jehovah does the convention afford us?

District Convention Reminders

- **Program Times:** The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. all three days. The doors will open at 8:00 a.m. A few minutes before the start of the session, the chairman will be seated on the platform while introductory Kingdom music is played. All of us should take our seats at that time so that the program can begin in a dignified manner. The program will conclude at 5:05 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 4:10 p.m. on Sunday.
- **Parking:** At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. Convention badge cards will serve as identification for parking. Only those who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the parking reserved for the disabled. Since parking space is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible rather than having only one or two persons per car.
- **Seat Saving:** Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home.
- **Donations:** Considerable expense is involved in arranging a district convention. We can show our appreciation by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower."
- **Hearing Impaired:** The program will be broadcast in the vicinity of the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. An announcement regarding this will be made at the beginning of the first session. To make use of this provision, you will need to bring a small FM receiver with earphones.
- **Noon Meal:** Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. A small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers, glass containers, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facility.
- **Recording:** Recorders of any type should not be connected to the facility's electric or sound system and may be used only in a way that does not disturb others.
- **Picture Taking:** If you take pictures, no flash should be used during sessions.
- **Pagers and Cell Phones:** These should be set so as not to cause a distraction.
- **Accidents and Emergencies:** Emergency-response services have complained that they receive many cell-phone calls to 911 over minor matters. If a medical emergency arises at the convention site, please contact a nearby attendant, who will immediately notify the First Aid Department so that our qualified first-aid personnel on site can assess the seriousness of the situation and render assistance. If necessary, 911 will be called.
- **Restaurants:** In many places it is customary to leave a 15 to 20 percent tip, depending on the service.
- **Hotels:** (1) Do not reserve more rooms than will actually be needed, and do not have more people stay in your room than allowed. (2) If you must cancel your reservation, notify the hotel immediately. (3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it. (4) Do not cook in noncooking rooms. (5) Leave a tip for the housekeeper each day. (6) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, or ice provisions that are made available for guests to use while they are at the hotel. (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff, especially during very busy check-in and checkout times.

Studying the *Keep on the Watch!* Brochure

Congregations earth wide will study the brochure *Keep on the Watch!* during the weeks of May 23 through June 20, 2005, at the Congregation Book Study. Please use the following questions when preparing for and when conducting this meeting. During the study, read the printed material, and read the cited scriptures as time permits.

Week of May 23

- **Pages 3-4:** Which of the situations listed here have especially affected your life? What indicates to you that these situations are not merely isolated local events?
- **Page 5:** What convinces you that God truly cares? What may indicate how much we care about God and what he is doing?
- **Pages 6-8:** What does Matthew 24:1-8, 14 say about the meaning of present world conditions? As shown by 2 Timothy 3:1-5, in what time period are we now living? Of what are these the last days? What convinces you that the Bible really is God's Word? What is the Kingdom about which we preach?
- **Pages 9-10:** Why should we carefully consider our daily decisions and our priorities in life? (Rom. 2:6; Gal. 6:7) As you review the questions on page 10, what scriptures come to your mind that should have a bearing on what you do?

Week of May 30

- **Page 11:** Why should we personally consider the questions raised on this page? (1 Cor. 10:12; Eph. 6:10-18) What do our answers to these questions reveal as to how seriously we take Jesus' counsel at Matthew 24:44?
- **Pages 12-14:** What is "the hour of the judgment" referred to at Revelation 14:6, 7? What is meant by 'fearing God and giving him glory'? What is Babylon the Great, and what will become of it? What action regarding Babylon the Great do we need to take now? What else is included in the foretold hour of judgment? What effect does our not knowing "the day nor the hour" for God's foretold execution of judgment have on us? (Matt. 25:13)
- **Page 15:** What is the issue of sovereignty, and how does it affect us individually?
- **Pages 16-19:** What are the "new heavens" and "new earth"? (2 Pet. 3:13) Who promises these things? What changes will the new heavens and new earth bring? Will we personally benefit from them?

Week of June 6

- **Pages 20-1:** What warning about fleeing did Jesus give to his first-century followers? (Luke 21:20, 21) When was such flight possible? Why was it urgent to flee without delay? (Matt. 24:16-18, 21) Why do many people ignore warnings? How did thousands of people in China and the Philippines benefit from heeding reliable warnings? Why is it even more urgent to heed the Bible's warning about the end of the present system of things? In view of this great urgency, we have what responsibility? (Prov. 24:11, 12)
- **Pages 22-3:** In Australia in 1974 and in Colombia in 1985, why did many lightly brush aside warnings of disaster, and with what results? How do you think you would have reacted to these warnings, and why? What may indicate whether we would have heeded the warning in Noah's day? Why did people want to live in and around ancient Sodom? How can we benefit by thinking seriously about what happened in Sodom?

Week of June 13

- **Pages 24-7:** Use the "Study Questions" on page 27.

Week of June 20

- **Pages 28-31:** Use the "Study Questions" on page 31.

Our consideration of the brochure will help us to "keep on the watch" and prove ourselves ready. May our public ministry always reflect the urgency of the angelic proclamation: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of the judgment by him has arrived." —Matt. 24:42, 44; Rev. 14:7.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. The objective should be to start a home Bible study, especially with individuals who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book or the *Knowledge* book and make an effort to start Bible studies. **July:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure be studied before the *Worship God* book.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2005 will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these unless you have a foreign-language group associated with your congregation. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If the congregation needs additional badge cards, these should be requested on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Plastic badge holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) and *Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service* (S-205b). These can be ordered on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply. Review all regular pioneer application forms to make sure they are complete.

■ Arrangements for spring cleaning at the branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, have been adjusted to include Friday afternoon, May 13, in addition to Saturday, May 14, 2005. Those who have already arranged to visit the branch office on May 13 are encouraged to plan to tour in the morning, since tours in the afternoon will be very limited. As was previously announced, there will be no arrangements for tours on Saturday, May 14.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 25, 2005. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 7 through April 25, 2005. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. When preparing a talk, how do we make good use of our assigned material, and why is this important? [*be* p. 234 pars. 1-3, boxes]
2. How much of the assigned material should we attempt to cover in a talk? [*be* p. 234 par. 4–p. 235 par. 1]
3. How might we use questions to encourage conversation in the field ministry? (Acts 8: 30) [*be* p. 236 pars. 2-5]
4. How might we use questions to help Bible students to use their "power of reason"? (Rom. 12:1) [*be* p. 238 par. 1]
5. What is the effect of the questions posed at Romans 8:31, 32 and Isaiah 14:27? [*be* p. 239 pars. 1-2]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How do we 'lay Christ as the foundation' in our disciple-making work? (1 Cor. 3:11) [*be* p. 278 pars. 1-2]
7. Since Jehovah conferred full ruling authority on his Son in 1914, what is our intent when praying, "Let your kingdom *come"?* (Matt. 6:9, 10) [*be* p. 279 par. 4]
8. Why should all Christians be interested in the ability to read, and how did Jesus set the example in this regard? [*w*03 3/15 p. 10 par. 5; p. 12 par. 2]
9. How can the examples of Josiah and Jesus help youths to make spiritual advancement? [*w*03 4/1 p. 8 pars. 3-4; p. 10 par. 3]
10. Why can we put our trust in God? (Prov. 3: 5, 6) [*w*03 11/1 p. 4 pars. 6-7]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Why did Hannah pray that Jehovah "give strength to his king" when there was no human king over Israel? (1 Sam. 2:10)
12. What can we learn from the fact that Israel was defeated despite having the ark of the covenant in their midst? (1 Sam. 4:3, 4, 10)
13. Why does 1 Chronicles 2:13-15 refer to David as the seventh son of Jesse, whereas 1 Samuel 16:10, 11 indicates that he was the eighth?
14. What "bad spirit" terrorized Saul? (1 Sam. 16:14)
15. Was the prediction made by "Samuel" through the spirit medium in En-dor accurate? (1 Sam. 28:16-19)

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies

Part 8: Directing Students to the Organization

1 Our goal in conducting Bible studies is not only to teach doctrinal information but also to help students become part of the Christian congregation. (Zech. 8:23) The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* can help us to do this. Place a copy with new Bible students, and encourage them to read it. In addition, take a few minutes each week on the study to share a point about Jehovah's organization.

2 **Congregation Meetings:** The principal way in which Bible students come to appreciate God's organization is by associating with us at congregation meetings. (1 Cor. 14:24, 25) Therefore, you might begin getting them acquainted by describing the five weekly meetings, one meeting at a time. Mention the title of the next public talk. Show them the material that will be considered at the *Watchtower* Study and at the Congregation Book Study. Describe the Theocratic Ministry School and the Service Meeting. When you have an assignment in the school, perhaps you could rehearse it with them. Share outstanding points that were presented at the meetings. Use photographs in our publications to help them visualize what takes place. From the very first study, invite them to attend.

3 When the Memorial, assemblies, and the visit of the circuit overseer approach, take a few minutes to explain and build enthusiasm for these arrangements. Progressively answer questions such as: Why are we called Jehovah's Witnesses? Why do we refer to our meeting places as Kingdom Halls? What are the duties of the elders and ministerial servants? How are the preaching work and the territory organized? How is our literature produced? How is the organization financed? What are the roles of the branch office and the Governing Body in overseeing the work?

4 **Instructive Videos:** Another way Bible students can see Jehovah's marvelous organization is by means of our videos. These can take them *To the Ends of the Earth,* acquaint them with *Our Whole Association of Brothers,* and show them how we are *United by Divine Teaching.* A woman who had received our magazines and other literature for five years was moved to tears by the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name.* She had come to trust the Witnesses that visited her, but after watching the video, she felt that she could trust the organization too. A formal study was started with her, and the following week, she attended meetings at the Kingdom Hall.

5 By spending a few minutes each week with our students and using the tools that have been provided, we can progressively direct Bible students to the one organization that Jehovah is using today.

1. Why is it beneficial to share a point about Jehovah's organization each week on a Bible study?
2. How can you encourage Bible students to attend congregation meetings?
3. What features of the organization might we discuss?

4, 5. How can our videos build appreciation for the organization?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER Apr. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Isn't there an endless amount of information available today? [Allow for response.] However, there is none more valuable than what is described in this text. [Read John 17:3.] This magazine explains what the term 'everlasting life' means and how we can obtain the knowledge that leads to it."

Awake! Apr. 22

"Although Jesus Christ is perhaps better known than any man who has ever lived, many people wonder who he really is. Did you know that even Jesus' own apostles pondered over this? [Allow for response. Then read Mark 4:41.] This magazine examines what the Bible says about Jesus' real identity."

THE WATCHTOWER May 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"When someone we love dies, it's natural to want to see that person again. Wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] Many have found comfort in the Bible's promise of a resurrection. [Read John 5:28, 29.] This magazine discusses when the resurrection will occur and who exactly will benefit from it."

Awake! May 8

"Most parents are selective in what they allow their children to watch. Has it been challenging to find suitable movies for your family? [Allow for response. Then read Ephesians 4:17.] This magazine considers how parents can help their children to choose entertainment that is wholesome."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/05 Vol. 48, No. 5

Jehovah's Day Is Near

[1] Christians ardently desire the coming of Jehovah's day, through which he will destroy the present system of things and usher in a new world of righteousness. (2 Pet. 3:12, 13, ftn.) Since we do not know exactly when that day will arrive, we must maintain our watchfulness and help others to do the same. (Ezek. 33:7-9; Matt. 24:42-44) Meditation on God's prophetic Word will strengthen our conviction that "the great day of Jehovah is near."—Zeph. 1:14.

[2] **March of World Powers:** As recorded at Revelation 17:9-11, the apostle John mentions "seven kings," representing a succession of seven world powers. John also refers to "an eighth king," which now represents the United Nations. Are we to expect other world powers to come on the scene? No, the prophecy states that this eighth king "goes off into destruction," after which no further earthly kings are mentioned. Does this prophecy help you to see where we are in the stream of time?

[3] Daniel 2:31-45 helps us to understand the coming of Jehovah's day. In that prophecy, the enormous image seen by Nebuchadnezzar in a dream represents a succession of world powers. Each of these powers has already made its appearance. Where in the course of history do we find ourselves today? In the period symbolized by the feet of the image. The prophecy vividly describes what will occur next. Human rulership will be completely destroyed, making way for "a kingdom that will never be brought to ruin." Can you see how this shows that Jehovah's day is near?

[4] **Further Evidence:** We are eyewitnesses of further evidence that Jehovah's day is near. We see the fulfillment of what the apostle Paul foretold regarding the traits of people "in the last days." (2 Tim. 3:1-5) And we are sharing in the global witness that must be given before the end comes. (Matt. 24:14) May our public ministry continue to reflect the urgency of the angelic proclamation: "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of the judgment by him has arrived."—Rev. 14:6, 7.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
Part 9: Preparing Students to Witness Informally

[1] When Andrew and Philip realized that Jesus was the promised Messiah, they could not hold back from telling others the thrilling news. (John 1:40-45) Likewise today, as Bible students begin to exercise faith in what they are learning, they are impelled to speak about it. (2 Cor. 4:13) How can we encourage them to witness informally and prepare them to do so effectively?

[2] You might simply ask the student whether he has spoken to others about what he has learned from the Bible. Perhaps there are friends and family members whom he could invite to sit in on the study. Ask him if any of his workmates, schoolmates, or other acquaintances have expressed interest. In this way he can begin to give a witness. Help him appreciate the need to exercise discernment and to be respectful and kind when speaking with others about Jehovah God and his purposes.—Col. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:24, 25.

[3] **Sharing Their Beliefs:** It is very important to train Bible students to use God's Word when sharing their beliefs. At selected points during the study, ask the student: "How would you use the Bible to explain this truth to your family?" or "What Bible text would you use to prove this to a friend?" Note how he responds, and show him how to base his teaching on the Scriptures. (2 Tim. 2:15) By so doing, you will be preparing the student to witness both informally and, when he qualifies, in the organized preaching work with the congregation.

[4] It is wise to prepare Bible students to face opposition. (Matt. 10:36; Luke 8:13; 2 Tim. 3:12) When others raise questions or make comments about Jehovah's Witnesses, this may open the way for students to give a witness. The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* can equip them to be "ready to make a defense." (1 Pet. 3:15) It provides accurate information that new ones can use to help well-meaning friends and family members understand our Bible-based beliefs and activities.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting May 9

Song 217

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to offer the May 15 *Watchtower* and the May 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one of the presentations, demonstrate offering the magazines informally on public transportation.

15 min: Use God's Word to Reach the Heart. A talk based on the February 1, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 28-31. Analyze how Jesus used the Scriptures to help Peter. Discuss how we can follow Jesus' example when there is a need to adjust the thinking and feelings of our children, our Bible students, and even ourselves.

20 min: "Make a Practical Family Schedule." In an introductory talk of less than two minutes, highlight the value of a written schedule and discuss how to fill out the blank schedule on page 6. Follow with a question-and-answer discussion of the article "Family Schedule—Congregation Meetings." Invite audience to comment on how they keep other activities from interfering with congregation meetings. Additional aspects of the family schedule will be considered in the following weeks.

Song 176 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 16

Song 201

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all that the schedule and questions for the book study consideration of *Keep on the Watch!* can be found in the April 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6.

15 min: "Family Schedule—Family Field Service."* Invite audience to comment on the benefits of regularly working together in the ministry as a family.

20 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 9."* When discussing paragraph 2, highlight one or two points from the December 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8. Include a brief demonstration of a Bible study. After having completed lesson 2 in the *Require* brochure, the study conductor asks the student: "How would you explain to a friend what God's name is?" The student explains how he would use Psalm 83:18, after which the study conductor commends him.

Song 134 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 23

Song 194

12 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used.

18 min: "Jehovah's Day Is Near."* When preparing this part, consult the *Daniel's Prophecy* book, page 59, paragraph 28.

15 min: "Family Schedule—The Family Study."* Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on how they schedule their family study and what effort is needed to hold it regularly.

Song 152 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 30

Song 190

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for May. Mention literature offer for June. Demonstrate how to present the offer, using one or two of the suggested presentations in the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert (if appropriate for your territory). Other practical presentations can be used.

20 min: "Family Schedule—The Daily Text."* Invite audience to comment on how their family benefits from considering the daily text together and what schedule they have found practical for doing so.

15 min: Relate or reenact field service experiences that were enjoyed during March, April, and May. Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on the effort they put forth to increase their share in the ministry during the Memorial season and the blessings they enjoyed as a result.

Song 115 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 6

Song 155

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Cultivate Interest With a Magazine Route."* When discussing paragraph 3, draw attention to the *Reasoning* book, pages 227-32. This material could be used to prepare a series of one-scripture discussions on what God's Kingdom will accomplish. Include a demonstration of how a publisher might have a one-scripture discussion with a person on his magazine route. Publisher should briefly discuss and illustrate the application of the scripture to help the householder understand it correctly and see its value in his life.

Song 107 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**208**	**96.7**	**83.5**	**47.9**	**4.5**
Pios.	**94,708**	**60.7**	**39.2**	**19.6**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**14,512**	**48.4**	**34.4**	**13.5**	**1.2**
Pubs.	**875,319**	**8.7**	**7.7**	**3.4**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**984,747**		Baptized: **1,441**		

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Make a Practical Family Schedule

[1] In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus urged his listeners: "Keep on, then, seeking *first* the kingdom and his righteousness." (Matt. 6:33) A practical way to plan the activities of the family so that spiritual matters are given priority is to have a written schedule. Take a few minutes to make your own weekly family schedule, using the blank schedule on page 6 of this insert. As a family project, some may wish to make cutouts and attach them to the schedule. Others may prefer to write in the activities.

[2] The sample schedule shown below may be helpful as you make your schedule. You will note that it includes just four basic activities: (1) attendance at congregation meetings, (2) family field service, (3) the family study, and (4) the consideration of the daily text. Including these on your schedule can help you to "make sure of the more important things." (Phil. 1:10) Further suggestions on these four areas appear on pages 4-5.

[3] Your family schedule need not be limited to just those four activities. If you prepare for certain meetings as a family, make a note of that on your schedule. If you read a portion of the Bible together after considering the daily text or do so at another time, indicate that. If you typically share in some form of family recreation, you may wish to include that on your schedule.

[4] Adapt your family schedule to accommodate the needs and circumstances of all in the household. Periodically evaluate how it is working, and make adjustments as needed.

Sample Family Schedule

	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text
Morning	Public Talk and *Watchtower* Study						Family Field Service (Magazine Day)
Afternoon							
Evening		Family Study	Congregation Book Study		Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting		

Family Schedule—Congregation Meetings

¹ If you are a Christian parent, you want your children to grow up to love and serve Jehovah and, ultimately, to gain everlasting life in God's promised new world. How can you help them to put the worship of Jehovah first in their lives? A major way is by your example. (Prov. 20:7) Recalling the example of her believing mother, one sister said: "There was never any question as to whether or not we were going to the meeting." This made a lasting impression on her.

² Does your family appreciate the purpose of congregation meetings? The instruction that we receive at these gatherings invigorates us to go on doing God's will, and the fellowship that we enjoy with our brothers is an invaluable source of encouragement. (Isa. 54:13; Rom. 1:11, 12) However, the primary purpose of such meetings is for praise to be lifted up to Jehovah "among the congregated throngs." (Ps. 26:12) Christian meetings afford us opportunities to demonstrate our love for Jehovah and to worship him.

³ **"Keep Strict Watch":** Appreciation for the sacred purpose of our meetings will move us to "keep strict watch" that we do not gradually develop the custom of missing meetings over matters of lesser importance. (Eph. 5:15, 16; Heb. 10:24, 25) When making your family schedule, you might begin by marking the times for congregation meetings. Then be careful not to allow other activities to interfere with them. Make sure that meeting attendance is a priority for your family.

⁴ Are we not moved when we read of our brothers overcoming obstacles to attend meetings and assemblies? Although your circumstances may be less dramatic, likely you too face challenges. Satan is making it increasingly difficult for God's people to worship Jehovah. Yet, be assured that your children will without fail notice your family's determined efforts to attend congregation meetings. Indeed, by so doing, you may impart to them a spiritual gift that will never be forgotten.

Family Schedule—Family Field Service

¹ Jehovah delights to see young ones praise his name. (Ps. 148:12, 13) In Jesus' day even 'babes and sucklings furnished praise' to God. (Matt. 21:15, 16) The same is happening today. Parents, how can you help your children develop into zealous praisers of Jehovah in the Christian ministry? Again, as emphasized in the above article on congregation meetings, a key factor is your example. One father spoke for parents everywhere when he said: "Children do not do as you say; they do as you do!"

² A sister reared by God-fearing parents recalled: "We never woke up on a Saturday morning asking if we were going in the ministry. We *knew* we were." Similarly, you can instill in your children the importance of the preaching work by establishing a consistent weekly routine for sharing in field service as a family. Not only does this allow your children to learn from watching you but it also enables you to observe their attitude, manners, and developing skills.

³ **Progressive Training:** For children to enjoy the ministry, they need to be prepared in order to participate effectively. The sister quoted earlier also said: "We were never tagalongs who accompanied our parents in *their* work. We knew we had a share, even if it was only to ring a doorbell and leave a handbill. By careful preparation prior to each weekend's activities, we knew what we would say." You can provide such training for your children by taking a few minutes each week to prepare them for the ministry, either during the family study or at another time.

⁴ Preaching together as a family gives you added opportunity to inculcate the truth in your children. One Christian father would take his daughter along when he walked the six miles each way to distribute tracts to villagers in the next valley. "It was during those walks," she fondly recalled, "that my father instilled the truth in my heart." (Deut. 6:7) May you likewise be blessed for making field service part of your weekly family schedule.

Family Schedule—The Family Study

[1] The greatest gift that you as a Christian parent can share with your children is your love for Jehovah. An important setting in which this can take place is "when you sit in your house" for the weekly family Bible study. (Deut. 6:5-7) Whether you have a believing mate, live in a religiously divided household, or are a single parent, you can help your children draw close to you and to Jehovah by having a regular family study.

[2] **Getting Started:** The first step is to establish the custom of studying as a family. If you are not sure when to hold the study, why not discuss this as a family? (Prov. 15:22) If you have younger children, you may prefer to have several short sessions throughout the week. Determine what works best for your household. Set a specific time for the study on your family schedule, and be resolved to stick to it.

[3] What might you study? Some prepare the lesson that will be considered at the upcoming Congregation Book Study or *Watchtower* Study. Others enjoy material designed especially for young people. The father of a young son and daughter said: "One thing that makes our study a high point in the week for the children is that we act out scenes from *My Book of Bible Stories.* The depth of impression and the comprehension that result are far more important than how many paragraphs we cover."

[4] **Study Each Week:** The family study should be held on a regular basis and be joyfully anticipated by all family members. Some flexibility as to day and time may be allowed for handling unexpected situations. There also may be occasions when an adjustment in the subject matter is needed. But any necessary adjustment should not cause a prolonged deviation from an established family study schedule. In one household, the daughter comments: "If the time of our study has to be changed, Dad always puts the new time on the refrigerator door so that all of us know when it will be." How commendable such efforts are to maintain a regular family study! As you go on bringing your children up "in the discipline and mental-regulating of Jehovah," you demonstrate your love both for them and for our heavenly Father.—Eph. 6:4.

Family Schedule—The Daily Text

[1] Loving parents put forth much effort each day to provide good food for their children. Providing them with spiritual nourishment from God's Word is even more important. (Matt. 4:4) One way you can help your children develop a healthy spiritual appetite and "grow to salvation" is by taking time each day to consider the daily text and comments as a family. (1 Pet. 2:2) When might you include this in your family schedule?

[2] **At Mealtimes:** Starting your day with a discussion of the text can help your family to keep Jehovah in mind throughout the day. (Ps. 16:8) One mother made it a point to read and discuss the text and comments with her son while he ate breakfast and to say a prayer with him before he went to school. This fortified him to take an uncompromising stand in the face of nationalism, to resist improper advances, and to give a courageous witness to students and teachers alike. Although he was the only Witness at school, he never felt alone.

[3] If discussing the text in the morning is not practical, you might consider it as a family later in the day, perhaps during the evening meal. Some also discuss experiences from the field ministry and points enjoyed from their personal Bible reading at this time. Many fondly recall such occasions around the table as among the happiest times spent together as a family.

[4] **At Night:** For some families, the best time to consider the daily text is just before retiring at night. This can also be a fine occasion to pray together. As your children daily hear you speak about Jehovah and pray to him, he becomes a real person to them.

[5] May Jehovah bless your efforts to instill the truth in your children as you make good use of *Examining the Scriptures Daily.*

Family Schedule

	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
Morning							
Afternoon							
Evening							

Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text	Daily Text
Public Talk and *Watchtower* Study	Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting	Congregation Book Study	Family Study	Family Field Service	Family Bible Reading	Family Recreation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. When making return visits on interested people, including those who attended the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the congregation, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. The objective should be to start a home Bible study, especially with individuals who have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book or the *Knowledge* book and make an effort to start Bible studies. **July and August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure be studied before the *Worship God* book.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. Completion of the audit(s) should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

■ Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!

Study schedule for the weeks of June 27, 2005, through April 10, 2006.

WEEK OF	CHAPTER	PARAGRAPHS	STUDY VERSES
June 27	1	1-18	
July 4	2	1-15	
11	2	16-32	
18	3	1-14	Dan. 1:1-7
25	3	15-26	Dan. 1:8-15
Aug. 1	3	27-37	Dan. 1:16-21
8	4	1-11	Dan. 2:1-39
15	4	12-24*	Dan. 2:39, 40
22	4	25-36	Dan. 2:41-49
29	5	1-17	Dan. 3:1-18
Sept. 5	5	18-25*	Dan. 3:19-30
12	6	1-14	Dan. 4:1-27
19	6	15-29	Dan. 4:28-37
26	7	1-16	Dan. 5:1-23
Oct. 3	7	17-28	Dan. 5:24-31
10	8	1-16	Dan. 6:1-17
17	8	17-29	Dan. 6:18-28
24	9	1-12	Dan. 7:1-5
31	9	13-19	Dan. 7:6, 7
Nov. 7	9	20-32	Dan. 7:8
14	9	33-40	Dan. 7:9-28
21	10	1-15	Dan. 8:1-8
28	10	16-30	Dan. 8:9-27
Dec. 5	11	1-12	Dan. 9:1-23
12	11	13-20	Dan. 9:24, 25
19	11	21-30	Dan. 9:26, 27
26	12	1-13	Dan. 10:1-8
Jan. 2	12	14-22	Dan. 10:9-21
9	13	1-15	Dan. 11:1-4
16	13	16-30	Dan. 11:5-16
23	13	31-9	Dan. 11:17-19
30	14	1-15	Dan. 11:20-24
Feb. 6	14	16-27	Dan. 11:25, 26
13	15	1-15	Dan. 11:27-30a
20	15	16-25	Dan. 11:30b, 31
27	16	1-17	Dan. 11:32-41
Mar. 6	16	18-28	Dan. 11:42-45
13	17	1-12	Dan. 12:1-3
20	17	13-23	Dan. 12:4-11
27	17	24-9	Dan. 12:12
Apr. 3	18	1-12	Dan. 12:13
10	18	13-27	Dan. 12:13

Read and discuss the supplementary information when considering the paragraph or question in which reference to it is made. For example, the box "The Matter of Language" (p. 26 in regular edition, pp. 32-3 in large-print edition) should be considered with chapter 2, paragraph 25, question (c). Discuss the charts and other visual aids in the book at appropriate points in the study. Please note that the large-print edition does not include any illustrations or the charts that appear on pages 56, 139, and 188-9 of the regular edition. At the conclusion of the weekly study, read and discuss "study verses" from the book of Daniel, as time permits.

* A review of "study verses" from the preceding week may also be included, as time permits.

Cultivate Interest With a Magazine Route

[1] Many people whom we meet in the ministry welcome our visits and gladly accept our literature but hesitate to agree to a regular Bible study. One way to cultivate their interest is by means of a magazine route. When you place magazines, make a record of the person's name and address, the date of the call, the issues that were accepted, and the scripture that was discussed, along with anything you noticed that might indicate the person's interests. As each new issue of the magazines arrives, look for points that will appeal to those on your route, and feature them when you visit. (1 Cor. 9:19-23) In time, something they read in our journals may spark their interest and cause them to want to learn more.

[2] We recognize, though, that most people will not become servants of Jehovah simply by reading the magazines on their own. Since it is urgent for people to seek Jehovah now, what more can we do to help them? (Zeph. 2:2, 3; Rev. 14:6, 7) We can cultivate their interest by sharing a carefully selected scripture each time we deliver the magazines.

[3] **One-Scripture Discussions:** Think about those on your magazine route, and prepare a series of one-scripture discussions for each one's specific needs. (Phil. 2:4) For example, if someone has recently lost a loved one in death, you might use a number of return visits to discuss what the Bible says about the condition of the dead and the hope of the resurrection. Material in the *Reasoning* book under the principal subjects "Death" and "Resurrection" could be used to prepare these one-scripture discussions. Additional discussions on related subjects, such as how sickness, old age, and death will be completely eliminated, might naturally follow. The key is to find a subject that interests the person and progressively show him what the Bible says about it.

[4] **Impart Understanding:** Although it is usually best to keep such discussions simple and brief, more is needed than just reading the selected scripture. Satan has blinded people's minds to the good news. (2 Cor. 4:3, 4) Even those who are familiar with the Bible need help to understand it. (Acts 8:30, 31) Hence, take time to explain and illustrate the text, much as you would in a talk in the Theocratic Ministry School. (Acts 17:3) Make sure the person sees the practical value of God's Word in his own life.

[5] If the person enjoys what he is learning, gradually extend the discussions to include two or three Bible texts each visit. Look for an opportunity to introduce the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. In this way, a magazine-route call may eventually become a Bible study.

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1. How can we use a magazine route to cultivate interest?

2. Why is it urgent for people to seek Jehovah now, and what more can we do to help them?

3. (a) How can we prepare a series of one-scripture discussions? (b) What subjects are of greatest concern to people in your territory?

4. Why is it important to impart understanding when we use the Scriptures, and how can we do so?

5. How can a magazine-route call become a Bible study?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **May 15**

"Do you think that we will ever see a world without poverty? [Allow for response.] Notice what God promises. [Read Isaiah 65:21.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how this promise will become a reality." Arrange to return to consider the question: When will this promised change take place?

Awake! May 22

"Most people have heard that exercise is important for good health, yet many admit that they don't exercise enough. Isn't that so? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the benefits of regular exercise and suggests some ways that we can fit it into our busy lives."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **June 1**

"Although almost everyone talks of peace, world unity has eluded mankind. Do you think that achieving it is just a dream? [Allow for response.] This magazine draws attention to a government that is capable of uniting the world." Read Psalm 72:7, 8, and arrange to return to discuss how this will take place.

Awake! June 8

"Have you noticed that many people are concerned about the increasing prevalence of skin cancer? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* examines why we today may be at greater risk and what we can do to protect ourselves." Conclude by sharing the comforting promise found at Job 33:25.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 6/05 Vol. 48, No. 6

Preaching Helps Us to Endure

[1] God's Word exhorts us to "run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Heb. 12:1) Just as a runner needs endurance to compete successfully, so we need endurance to attain the prize of everlasting life. (Heb. 10:36) How can the Christian ministry help us to endure faithfully to the end?—Matt. 24:13.

[2] **Fortified Spiritually:** Our proclaiming the Bible's marvelous promise of a righteous new world helps keep our own hope bright. (1 Thess. 5:8) When we participate regularly in the field ministry, we have the opportunity to make known the truths that we have learned from the Bible. We have the opportunity to defend our faith, which in turn helps to fortify us spiritually.

[3] In order to teach others effectively, we must clearly understand Bible truths ourselves. We have to do research and meditate on the material. The earnest effort that we put forth deepens our knowledge, strengthens our faith, and refreshes us spiritually. (Prov. 2:3-5) Thus, as we seek to help others, we strengthen ourselves.—1 Tim. 4:15, 16.

[4] Zealous participation in the ministry is a vital part of "the complete suit of armor from God," which we need in order to stand firm against the Devil and the demons. (Eph. 6:10-13, 15) Our being busy in sacred service helps us to keep our mind focused on upbuilding things and to avoid becoming corrupted by Satan's world. (Col. 3:2) As we teach others Jehovah's ways, we are continually reminded of our own need to maintain holy conduct.—1 Pet. 2:12.

[5] **Empowered by God:** Finally, our sharing in the evangelizing work teaches us to rely on Jehovah. (2 Cor. 4:1, 7) What a blessing that is! Our developing such trust equips us not only to accomplish our ministry but also to cope with whatever circumstances we may face in life. (Phil. 4:11-13) Indeed, learning to rely fully on Jehovah is the key to endurance. (Ps. 55:22) In many ways, preaching helps us to endure.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
Part 10: Training Students in the House-to-House Ministry

[1] When the elders determine that a Bible student qualifies as an unbaptized publisher, he may begin to share with the congregation in the public preaching work. (See *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will*, pp. 79-81.) How can we help the student to meet the challenge of preaching from house to house?

[2] **Preparing Together:** There is no substitute for good preparation. Show the student where he can find suggested presentations in *Our Kingdom Ministry* and the *Reasoning* book, and help him select a simple approach that is practical for the local territory. From the start, encourage him to feature the Bible in his ministry.—2 Tim. 4:2.

[3] Practice sessions are very beneficial for a new publisher. As the student rehearses the presentation, show him how to handle tactfully the responses that are common in the territory. (Col. 4:6) Assure him that Christian ministers do not need to know the answer to every question that a householder might raise. Often it is best to handle such questions by offering to do research and to return to discuss the matter further.—Prov. 15:28.

[4] **Preaching Together:** The first time the student shares in the house-to-house ministry, let him observe as you give the presentation that the two of you prepared together. Then get him involved. In some cases, it may be best to have the new publisher give only part of the presentation, such as reading and commenting on a scripture. Take into consideration the personality and abilities of the student. (Phil. 4:5) Be generous in giving commendation as you progressively train him in the various aspects of the preaching work.

[5] It is important to help a new publisher establish a regular schedule for participating in the ministry, doing so weekly if possible. (Phil. 3:16) Make definite arrangements to work together in service, and encourage him to work with other zealous ones also. Their example and association will help him to develop skill and find joy in preaching from house to house.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 13

Song 198

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to offer the June 15 *Watchtower* and the June 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one of the presentations, demonstrate offering the magazines in some informal setting.

15 min: Help Others to Become Unbaptized Publishers. Talk and audience discussion by an elder based on *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will,* pages 79-81. Discuss the arrangement for determining whether a Bible student meets the Scriptural requirements for sharing in field service with the congregation. Next week we will consider how we can train Bible students who qualify as unbaptized publishers to begin participating in the house-to-house ministry.

20 min: "Preaching Helps Us to Endure."* Invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures as time permits.

Song 149 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 20

Song 206

10 min: Local announcements. Review key points from the July 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. Explain how publishers can obtain literature in a foreign language. Discuss how this information applies to the local territory. Any request for foreign-language items should be made through the literature servant, even if it is for just a single item, so that the needed literature can be obtained without unnecessary delay.

15 min: God's Word Exerts Power. (Heb. 4:12) Talk based on the November 15, 2003, *Watchtower,* page 11, paragraphs 13-17. Relate experiences showing how Bible instruction can move people to make changes in their way of life. (*w*00 1/1 pp. 3-5) Encourage all to make good use of the Bible in all features of the ministry.

20 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 10."* Include a demonstration showing a practice session in progress. As the student rehearses a presentation, the conductor, who is playing the role of the householder, gives a common objection and, when the student is unsure of what to say, explains how it might be handled. In addition, arrange in advance for one or two to comment on the training they received when they began sharing in the house-to-house ministry.

Song 208 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 27

Song 113

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for June. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggested presentations on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present either the July 1 *Watchtower* or the July 8 *Awake!* Another realistic presentation may be used. After the demonstration, restate the opening comments that were used to arouse the householder's interest.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Offering the *Worship God* book in July and August. Talk and audience discussion. Review the following points from "How to Use Sample Presentations," found on page 8 of the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry:* (1) We will usually be more effective if we put presentations in our own words. (2) We must use good judgment and adapt our presentations according to what is acceptable locally. (3) We need to take into account the background and thinking of the people in our territory. (4) We should carefully read the chapter that we plan to feature and look for points that may stir interest. (5) We are not limited to using only the approaches outlined in the sample presentations. Discuss presentations that can be used to offer the *Worship God* book. You may use the sample presentations that appear on page 5 of the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, adapt those presentations according to the customs and thinking of people in the territory, or use other presentations that are effective. Demonstrate two or three presentations.

Song 196 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 4

Song 70

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Are You Benefiting From a Family Schedule? Review the suggestions in the May 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, and invite the audience to comment on the efforts they have made to apply the suggestions and on the benefits they have received from doing so.

20 min: "Witnessing Effectively in Public Places."* Make application to the local territory. Remind publishers to use the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form when appropriate. —See the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 6.

Song 120 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**263**	**95.4**	**78.0**	**45.9**	**4.4**
Pios.	**93,870**	**67.2**	**43.3**	**22.2**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**54,926**	**49.2**	**35.2**	**12.9**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**843,673**	**9.4**	**8.2**	**3.6**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**992,732**			Baptized:	**2,056**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Family Happiness* book or the *Knowledge* book and make an effort to start Bible studies. **July and August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure be studied before the *Worship God* book. **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand.

■ A copy of the book *Organized to Do Jehovah's Will* should be included in the Kingdom Hall library. Further information on Kingdom Hall libraries can be found in the February 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 5, and the April 1997 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

■ The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted *Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire* (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, a new form should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone number changes or if he is no longer in good standing in the congregation, the elders should immediately inform the Regional Building Committee by letter. The completed S-82 forms in the congregation file should be made available for the circuit overseer's review when he visits the congregation.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 27, 2005. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 2 through June 27, 2005. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. Why are similes and metaphors powerful teaching tools? (Gen. 22:17; Ps. 1:3; Jas. 3:6) [*be* p. 240 pars. 2-4, box]
2. Where can we find examples that teach valuable lessons, but what caution should we observe in this regard? [*be* p. 242 pars. 1-2]
3. What do we need to keep in mind when selecting illustrations that will be most effective? [*be* p. 244 pars. 1-2]
4. Why should we employ visual aids in our teaching, and how has Jehovah done so? [*be* p. 247 pars. 1-2, box]
5. How can we use visual aids in the field ministry? [*be* p. 248 par. 1–p. 249 par. 2]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What direction is there in God's Word concerning the education of children? [*w*03 3/15 p. 12 par. 2; p. 14 par. 3]
7. How did Jehovah show interest in David as a youth, and how did David show interest in Jehovah? [*w*03 4/15 p. 29 par. 4; p. 30 par. 3]
8. Why did Jehovah take note of Abel's sacrifice, and of what does this assure us? (Gen. 4:4) [*w*03 5/1 p. 28 par. 4–p. 29 par. 1]
9. What is "the discipline of Jehovah" that Proverbs 3:11 admonishes us not to reject? [*w*03 10/1 p. 20 pars. 2-4]
10. What is the meaning of "self-sufficiency" as used at 1 Timothy 6:6-8? [*w*03 6/1 p. 9 pars. 1-2; p. 10 par. 1]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What did the uniting bond of love between Jonathan and David foreshadow? (2 Sam. 1:26) [*w*89 1/1 p. 26 par. 13]
12. What can be learned from David's first attempt to bring the ark of the covenant into Jerusalem? (2 Sam. 6:2-9)
13. After David and Bath-sheba sinned, why did their son have to die, since Deuteronomy 24:16 and Ezekiel 18:20 say that a son is not to die for his father's error? (2 Sam. 12:14; 22:31)
14. How do we know that Ziba's claim about Mephibosheth was a lie? (2 Sam. 16:1-4)
15. Why was Mephibosheth's reaction to his situation with Ziba a fine example for us? (2 Sam. 19:24-30)

Witnessing Effectively in Public Places

[1] Like Jesus' early disciples, Christians today seek to share the good news with people wherever they can be found. (Acts 16:13; 17:17; 20:20, 21) As a result of their efforts to witness in public places, they are finding interest among people who might otherwise never have been contacted in the house-to-house ministry.

[2] Discernment is needed when witnessing publicly. Usually, it is best to work inconspicuously. For example, if too many publishers witness in the same area or visit the same businesses, some people may feel overwhelmed by our presence. This detracts from the dignity of our work and may limit our effectiveness. What can be done to prevent this from happening? Some congregations that have many areas for public witnessing have found it helpful to organize these into individual territories. (1 Cor. 14:40) In addition, we can contribute to good order by working only in our congregation's assigned territory unless specific arrangements have been made through the Congregation Service Committee to assist another congregation.—See the November 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 6, pars. 18-19.

[3] **Approaching People:** When Jesus spoke with a woman at a well, he started with a brief remark and progressively expanded the conversation as her interest became manifest. (John 4:7-26) This approach is also effective in certain settings today. Some publishers find that to get into the proper frame of mind for public witnessing, it is helpful to spend a few minutes greeting people and showing personal interest in them before presenting the Kingdom message. They comment on a topic of local interest, which often leads to a conversation. As others express their concerns, they listen carefully. Before long, they are sharing comfort from God's Word.—Rom. 15:4.

[4] **Cultivating Interest:** Each time we have a good discussion, we should try to make arrangements to cultivate the interest. How can we do this? As the discussion is coming to a close, you might take out your notebook and say: "I have enjoyed our conversation. Is there any way we can continue at another time?" Or say: "I would like you to read an article that I am sure will interest you. May I bring it to your home or office?" Some publishers simply ask: "At what number can you be reached?" This often elicits a favorable response.

[5] Many people who were first contacted in public places have accepted Bible studies. Such studies can be conducted at the person's home, at his place of employment, in an appropriate public setting, or by telephone. May we make it our aim to start Bible studies as we witness effectively in public places.

1. In imitation of Christians in the first century, how are Christians today giving a witness in public places, and with what results?
2. Why is discernment needed when witnessing in public places, and how can we contribute to good order?
3. What approach have some found effective when witnessing in public places?
4. How can we cultivate the interest we find?
5. What aim should we have when witnessing publicly?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER June 15
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Most of us will spend much of our life working. Some view that as a blessing; others view it as a curse. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Ecclesiastes 2:24.] This magazine shows how the Bible can help us gain a balanced view of work. It also discusses how to deal with work-related stress."

Awake! June 22

"Do you think our community would be a better place if everyone lived by these words? [Read Ephesians 4:28. Then allow for response.] This magazine discusses the high price each of us pays because of shoplifting. It also shows how shoplifting, and all other crimes, will soon be a thing of the past."

THE WATCHTOWER July 1
ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"All of us know of people who seem to be successful and yet still feel that something is missing in their life. What do you think they are looking for? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 5:3.] This magazine discusses an important key to gaining inner peace—satisfying our spiritual need."

Awake! July 8

"In today's highly competitive job market, unemployment is a major problem. This magazine outlines five keys to finding a job. [Highlight the bold subheadings in the article "Five Keys to Finding a Job."] It also gives practical suggestions on how to keep a job." Read Proverbs 22:29, quoted on page 10.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/05 Vol. 48, No. 7

A Debt We Owe to Others

1 The apostle Paul felt an obligation to preach to people. He knew that Jehovah had made it possible for all sorts of men to be saved by means of the precious blood of His Son. (1 Tim. 2:3-6) Therefore, Paul stated: "Both to Greeks and to Barbarians, both to wise and to senseless ones I am a debtor." He eagerly and tirelessly labored to discharge his debt to his fellow humans by sharing the good news with them.—Rom. 1:14, 15.

2 Like Paul, Christians today seek to share the good news with their neighbors at every opportunity. With the "great tribulation" fast approaching, our search for honesthearted ones is urgent. May genuine love for people move us to be diligent in this lifesaving work.—Matt. 24:21; Ezek. 33:8.

3 **Discharging Our Debt:** The principal way in which we reach people is by preaching from door to door. In territories where there are many not-at-homes, keeping accurate records and returning at different times will enable us to contact more people. (1 Cor. 10:33) We can also reach individuals by witnessing in business territory, on the streets, in parks, in parking lots, and over the telephone. We could ask ourselves, 'Am I doing my best to pursue all avenues of preaching in order to share the message of life?' —Matt. 10:11.

4 One pioneer felt a keen responsibility to reach all the people in her territory. At one house, the blinds were always shut and no one was ever at home. However, one day when the pioneer was not in service, she noticed a car in front of this perpetual not-at-home. Not wanting the opportunity to slip by, she rang the doorbell. A man answered, and the initial conversation led to several return visits by this sister and her husband. Eventually, the man accepted a Bible study, and he is now a baptized brother. He is grateful that this sister felt a debt of responsibility to preach to others.

5 With time fast running out, now is the time to pay our debt to our fellowman by exerting ourselves vigorously in the preaching work.—2 Cor. 6:1, 2.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
Part 11: Helping Students to Make Return Visits

1 When a Bible student begins to share in the preaching work, he will meet people who show interest in the good news. How can we help the new publisher to make effective return visits and to cultivate the interest he finds?

2 Preparation for a return visit begins with the initial call. Encourage the student to take a sincere interest in those with whom he speaks. (Phil. 2:4) Progressively train him to draw them out, to listen to their comments, and to note the things that concern them. When someone shows interest, have the new publisher write down the pertinent information about the call. Use that information to help him plan further discussions.

3 **Preparing to Return:** Review the initial call, and show the student how to select an aspect of the Kingdom message that will appeal to the householder. (1 Cor. 9:19-23) Prepare together a brief presentation that features one Bible text along with a paragraph in a study publication. In addition, prepare a question that can be raised at the conclusion of the discussion to lay the groundwork for the next visit. Show the new publisher how to add to the person's knowledge of God's Word with each successive visit.

4 It is also helpful to provide the student with a simple introduction. After greeting the householder, he might say: "I enjoyed our previous conversation, and I have returned to share further Bible information on [mention the topic]." You may also need to show the new publisher how to respond if a different person answers the door.

5 **Follow Up Diligently:** Encourage the student to set a good example in returning promptly on all who show interest. Finding people at home may require persistence in calling back. Teach the student how to make appointments to visit again, and help him appreciate the need to return as promised. (Matt. 5:37) Train the new publisher to be kind, considerate, and respectful as he searches for sheeplike ones and cultivates their interest.—Titus 3:2.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 11

Song 49

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the July 15 *Watchtower* and the July 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In each demonstration, show a different way to handle the potential conversation stopper "I'm busy."—See *Reasoning* book, pp. 19-20.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Reaching as Many People as Possible."* When discussing paragraph 5, review suggestions in the June 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4, that apply to the local territory.

Song 88 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 18

Song 173

10 min: Local announcements. Briefly consider the August 15, 2000, *Watchtower,* page 32. Highlight the benefits of maintaining a regular program of daily Bible reading, even during vacation periods and at other times when we are out of our normal routine.

15 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 11."* Include a demonstration of a study conductor and a new publisher preparing to make a return visit. They review the initial call and select an appropriate point to share on the return visit. They also prepare a simple introduction and a question that can be raised at the conclusion of the visit. The demonstration concludes as they are about to rehearse the presentation they have prepared.

20 min: Assist Others to Appreciate the Bible. Question-and-answer discussion based on the *Worship God* book, pages 24-5, paragraphs 3-6. Use the study questions provided in the book. Include comments on the brochure *A Book for All People,* page 32.

Song 10 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 25

Song 138

15 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the August 1 *Watchtower* and the August 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In one of the presentations, demonstrate offering the magazines informally at a market or in some other appropriate public setting.

10 min: Inculcate the Truth in Your Child's Heart. (Deut. 6:7) A talk by an elder based on the August 15, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 30-1. Highlight Scriptural principles that provide guidance on child training for a Christian parent who has a non-Witness mate.

20 min: "A Debt We Owe to Others."* Include comments on the July 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* page 11, paragraph 13.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 1

Song 187

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for July. Invite audience to open to page 70 of the *Ministry School* book, and by means of an audience discussion, consider paragraphs 1-2 and the box "How to Comment at Meetings."

15 min: "Help Your Children Progress in the Ministry." Talk and audience discussion. Include a demonstration of a parent and child using a simplified presentation. Have the parent conclude the presentation by briefly explaining the donation arrangement.

15 min: Have You Tried a Flexible Approach? Talk and audience discussion based on the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6. Review the suggestions provided, and show how a flexible approach can be used with the literature offer for August. Have one or two presentations demonstrated.

Song 218 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**244**	**97.5**	**90.9**	**42.1**	**4.3**
Pios.	**93,836**	**66.1**	**45.9**	**21.0**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**52,817**	**49.1**	**40.4**	**12.2**	**0.9**
Pubs.	**857,413**	**9.5**	**8.6**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,004,310**			Baptized:	**2,543**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **July and August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure be studied before the *Worship God* book. **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure and make a special effort to start Bible studies.
- Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Why Be Guided by the Bible?"
- It is recommended that applications for regular pioneer service be submitted to the branch office *at least 30 days* before the requested start date. The congregation secretary should review the forms to make sure that they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it. The secretary should note this date on the *Congregation's Publisher Record* (S-21) card.
- Congregation secretaries should make sure that they have a *Pioneer Appointment Letter* (S-202) for each regular pioneer in the congregation. If they do not, please write the branch office.
- The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: September 10, 2005 (Gilead graduation); October 1, 2005 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 11, 2006 (Gilead graduation); and May 12-13, 2006 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.
- It is important that groups of 20 or more planning to visit the U.S. branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. You may also use the following fax number: (845) 306-0200. Please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. *Lodging information may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the June 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.
- A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

Help Your Children Progress in the Ministry

1 Christian parents shoulder the serious responsibility of training their children in the ministry from a young age. This may be achieved in a number of ways. Some children are able to recite an appropriate Bible text even before they are able to read. This can have a powerful effect on listeners. As little ones get older, they can do even more in the ministry. How can you parents help your children to share in giving a witness? Perhaps the following suggestions will be of further help.

2 ***After a greeting, you might say:***

- "My son, [his name], has a meaningful scripture that he would like to call to your attention." Your child may say: "This scripture in Psalms taught me God's name. [Child reads or recites Psalm 83:18.] These magazines talk about what Jehovah God will do for us. May I leave them with you?" You could conclude the conversation by explaining how the worldwide work is supported.

3 ***Or you might try this approach:***

- "Hello. I am training my daughter, [her name], to show concern for others in the community. She would like to share a brief Bible message with you." She could say: "One way I like to help people is by sharing the Bible's hope for the future. [Child reads or recites Revelation 21:4.] These magazines explain what God's Kingdom will do for us. I think you will enjoy reading them."

4 Consistently using a simplified presentation allows children to gain confidence in their ability to share the Kingdom message. Practice sessions that focus on speaking clearly and with adequate volume will equip them to speak under a variety of circumstances. Good advance preparation and sincere commendation will help little ones to express their faith.

5 With such encouragement, many young ones have qualified as unbaptized publishers. What a joy it is to see our children making progress in the Christian ministry!—Ps. 148:12, 13.

Reaching as Many People as Possible

[1] Jesus' early followers earnestly sought to spread the Kingdom message. They took practical steps to make the good news available to as many people as possible. Christian Bible writers penned their inspired writings in the common Greek, which was the international language of the Roman Empire. Further, zealous preachers of the second and third centuries C.E. on may have pioneered the use of the codex, which was easier to use than a scroll for looking up references.

[2] **Use of Technology:** Through the prophet Isaiah, Jehovah foretold: "You will actually suck the milk of nations." (Isa. 60:16) In the modern-day fulfillment of this prophecy, Jehovah's servants are making use of valuable resources from the nations to advance the preaching work. For example, in 1914, years before talking motion pictures became successful commercially, the Bible Students began showing the "Photo-Drama of Creation." This eight-hour-long motion picture and slide presentation, complete with color and sound, gave a powerful witness to millions.

[3] Today, God's people make use of high-speed printing presses and computerized tools to publish Bibles and Bible literature in hundreds of languages. Rapid means of transport move Bible literature to distant parts of the earth, reaching people in 235 lands. Through his spirit, Jehovah has impelled his servants to put such technology to practical use, making Bible truth available to more people than ever before in history.

[4] **Personal Adjustments:** True worshippers have also been motivated to make personal adjustments so as to reach more people with the good news. Many have simplified their lives in order to have a fuller share in the preaching work. Some have moved to serve where there is a greater need for Kingdom proclaimers. Others have expanded their ministry by learning a foreign language.

[5] In addition, we can reach more people with the good news by preaching *when* people are at home and *where* people can be found. If people are often not at home during the day in your territory, could you adjust your schedule to witness during the early evening hours? Are there public places where a witness can be given? Have you tried telephone witnessing and working business territory? Do you look for opportunities to witness informally?

[6] How privileged we are to share in the grand witness being given about Jehovah's name and Kingdom! May we continue to share the life-giving truth from God's Word with as many people as possible.—Matt. 28:19, 20.

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1. What did the early Christians do to reach as many people as possible with the good news?

2, 3. (a) How is Isaiah 60:16 being fulfilled in modern times? (b) How is technology being used to advance pure worship?

4. What adjustments have some made in their lives to reach more people with the good news?

5, 6. What can be done to reach as many people as possible in the local territory?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 15

"During the thousands of years of human history, mankind has developed a vast array of beliefs. Do you think it is possible to know which ones are true and which are false? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers where you can find true teachings that please God." Read 2 Timothy 3:16.

Awake! July 22

"It is heartrending to see the suffering caused by natural disasters. [Mention an example known locally.] Do you think such disasters are on the rise? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines that question. It also offers comfort for those who have lost loved ones in such tragedies." Read John 5:28, 29.

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Aug. 1

"Many people today struggle with feelings of worthlessness. What do you think can be done to help them? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses how the Bible can help such ones to find true joy." Highlight the scriptures in bold italics in the article "The Bible Can Help You Find Joy."

Awake! Aug. 8

"Many people live in constant fear. What do you think is responsible for this climate of fear? [Allow for response.] This magazine offers practical suggestions for protecting ourselves from common dangers. It also discusses the Bible's promise of a world free from fear." Read Isaiah 11:9.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 8/05 Vol. 48, No. 8

Kingdom Preaching—A Precious Privilege

1 Daily, billions of earth's inhabitants benefit from Jehovah's generous provisions for life. (Matt. 5:45) However, very few enjoy the unique privilege of showing appreciation to their Creator by preaching the good news of God's Kingdom. (Matt. 24:14) How highly do you esteem this precious privilege?

2 Kingdom preaching honors God and brings hope and peace to people who are distressed by today's turbulent times. (Heb. 13:15) To those who respond to the message, it means everlasting life. (John 17:3) What secular career or profession offers such benefits? The apostle Paul demonstrated his appreciation for the ministry in the way he carried it out. He viewed it as a treasure.—Acts 20:20, 21, 24; 2 Cor. 4:1, 7.

3 **Treasuring Our Precious Privilege:** One way we show appreciation for the privilege to preach is by giving attention to the quality of our service. Do we take time to prepare a presentation that will touch the hearts of our listeners? Can we improve our skill in using the Scriptures and in reasoning with people? Do we work our assigned territory thoroughly? Can we start and conduct a Bible study? Like faithful Christians, both past and present, we are motivated by a proper view of this activity, and we cherish our privilege.—Matt. 25:14-23.

4 When we are dealing with the effects of advanced age, poor health, or other difficult circumstances, it is comforting to know that our zealous efforts to share in the ministry are indeed highly valued. God's Word assures us that Jehovah values such efforts in serving him, even those efforts that may not seem impressive in the eyes of others. —Luke 21:1-4.

5 Kingdom preaching is a source of great satisfaction. A 92-year-old sister said: "What a privilege to look back over 80 years of dedicated service to God—with no regrets! If I could live my life again, I would live it the same way because, indeed, 'God's loving-kindness is better than life itself.'" (Ps. 63:3) May we too treasure this precious privilege from God—the Kingdom-preaching work.

Conducting Progressive Bible Studies

Part 12: Helping Students Start and Conduct Bible Studies

1 When our Bible students begin sharing in the field ministry, they may be intimidated by the thought of starting and conducting their own Bible studies. How can we help them develop a positive attitude toward this essential part of our ministry?—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20.

2 Once a Bible student qualifies to be an unbaptized publisher, he is likely already taking full advantage of the Theocratic Ministry School. The training he receives in preparing and presenting student assignments will help him to develop the teaching skills that are needed by "a workman with nothing to be ashamed of, handling the word of the truth aright." —2 Tim. 2:15.

3 **Teach by Your Example:** Jesus trained his disciples by giving clear instruction and setting a fine example. He said: "Everyone that is perfectly instructed will be like his teacher." (Luke 6: 40) Your imitating Jesus by setting a proper example in your own ministry is vital. As your student observes your lead in the ministry, he will appreciate that the objective in making return visits is to start Bible studies.

4 Explain that when we offer a study, it is not generally necessary to describe the study arrangement in detail. Often it is best simply to demonstrate the study by using one or perhaps two paragraphs from a study publication. Helpful suggestions for doing this can be found on page 8 of this issue and on page 6 of the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

5 When appropriate, invite the student to accompany you or another experienced publisher on other Bible studies. He might share in commenting on a paragraph or a key scripture. Thus, by observation, the student will learn much about conducting progressive Bible studies. (Prov. 27:17; 2 Tim. 2:2) Give him commendation, and discuss how he can improve.

6 Training new publishers to be teachers of God's Word will equip them for the "good work" of starting and conducting studies of their own. (2 Tim. 3:17) How satisfying it is to work side by side with them in extending the loving invitation: "Let anyone that wishes take life's water free"!—Rev. 22:17.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE: A month or two after the congregation attends the "Godly Obedience" District Convention, 15 to 20 minutes should be set aside on the Service Meeting (perhaps using a local needs portion) for a review of points from the convention that the publishers have found to be helpful in the field ministry. The special Service Meeting part will give us the opportunity to explain how we are using what we learned at the convention and how it has helped make our ministry more effective. —See the April 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 2.

Week Starting August 8

Song 125

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind publishers of the dates of the circuit assembly and special assembly day programs for the 2006 service year if these are known.

10 min: "Are You Using Handbills?" Talk and audience discussion. Invite audience to comment on the good results obtained from using handbills. Include a brief demonstration of a publisher inviting an interested person to a meeting by using a handbill.

25 min: "Now Is the Time to *Preach!*"* Arrange in advance for one or two regular pioneers to comment on the adjustments they made in order to pioneer and the blessings they have enjoyed as a result.

Song 197 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 15

Song 11

10 min: Local announcements. Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the August 15 *Watchtower* and the August 22 *Awake!* Show an elder and an infirm publisher doing telephone witnessing.

15 min: Do You Remember? Audience discussion based on the April 15, 2005, *Watchtower,* page 30. Invite audience to comment on each question. Highlight the practical value of the material. Encourage all to read carefully each issue of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*

20 min: "Starting Bible Studies at the Doorstep and by Telephone."* Include a brief demonstration showing how a Bible study can be started on the initial call, using just one or two paragraphs in the *Require* brochure. Relate briefly one or two encouraging experiences about starting studies by telephone.

Song 30 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 22

Song 161

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Kingdom Preaching—A Precious Privilege."* When discussing paragraph 4, review the special provision for reporting field service time in 15-minute increments by those who are very limited by advanced age or health problems.—See the October 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8, par. 6.

Song 204 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 29

Song 45

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the September 1 *Watchtower* and the September 8 *Awake!* In one of the presentations, demonstrate making a return visit on a magazine-route call.

15 min: "A Witness Without Words."* Invite selected publishers to comment on how observing the fine conduct of God's people helped *them* to become servants of Jehovah.

20 min: Feature the Bible on Initial Calls. Talk and audience discussion. Review suggestions in the September 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4, paragraph 2, for directing attention to God's Word on initial calls. Demonstrate how one or two of the suggested presentations could be used with the literature offer for September. Suggestions in the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert for presenting the offer may also be discussed and demonstrated as time permits.

Song 71 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 5

Song 98

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 12."* Arrange in advance for one or two publishers to comment on what helped them to make progress in starting and conducting Bible studies.

20 min: Organizing to Assist the Elderly. Talk by an elder based on the August 15, 1993, *Watchtower,* pages 28-9, under the subheading "Organizing Is Valuable." Mention arrangements that have been made in the congregation to assist sick and elderly ones.

Song 164 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**245**	**97.7**	**113.3**	**44.3**	**4.5**
Pios.	**92,495**	**65.3**	**45.2**	**20.6**	**2.0**
Aux. Pios.	**31,115**	**49.3**	**39.9**	**12.7**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**867,595**	**9.4**	**8.6**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**991,450**		Baptized: **2,009**		

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Now Is the Time to Preach!

1 "Fear God and give him glory." Under angelic direction, this message is being declared "to every nation and tribe and tongue and people." Why? "Because the hour of the judgment by [God] *has arrived.*" Today, we are living in that 'hour of judgment,' which will culminate with the destruction of the present system of things. It is vital for people to "worship the One who made the heaven and the earth and sea and fountains of waters." No other work being done today can compare in importance or urgency with the proclamation of the "everlasting good news." Yes, *now* is the time to preach! —Rev. 14:6, 7.

2 During the past ten years, servants of Jehovah have spent nearly 12 billion hours in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. Many have made adjustments in their lives in order to share more fully in the spiritual harvest. (Matt. 9:37, 38) Last year, for example, an average of over 850,000 publishers each month served as pioneers. For regular pioneers, this requires spending an average of 70 hours every month in the preaching work. For auxiliary pioneers, the requirement is 50 hours.

3 **How to Pioneer:** Recognizing that "the time left is reduced," pioneers strive to keep their life simple. (1 Cor. 7:29, 31) They look for ways to reduce expenses so that they can spend less time doing secular work. For example, some have moved into smaller dwellings. Others have eliminated unnecessary material possessions. (Matt. 6:19-21) Often, they must also curtail personal pursuits. All of this is done with the goal of devoting more time and attention to the ministry. (Eph. 5:15, 16) With persistence, a self-sacrificing spirit, and prayerful reliance on Jehovah, many publishers have been able to arrange a practical schedule that enables them to pioneer.

4 Can you pioneer? Why not ask successful pioneers how they are able to do it? Work with them in the field ministry, and experience their joy. Consider articles on pioneering that have appeared in our publications. Set practical goals for yourself that can serve as stepping-stones to pioneering. If there are obstacles that presently prevent you from serving as a pioneer, bring them before Jehovah in prayer, and ask him to help you resolve them.—Prov. 16:3.

5 **Blessings and Joys:** Pioneering sharpens our skills in the use of God's Word, which in turn brings increased joy. "Being able to handle God's Word of truth aright is a real blessing," commented one young pioneer sister. "When you pioneer, you use the Bible so much. Now when I go from door to door, I can think of scriptures that are appropriate for each householder."—2 Tim. 2:15.

6 Pioneering also teaches many valuable life skills. It can help young people learn how to budget time wisely, how to manage finances, and how to get along with people. Many develop a more spiritual outlook on life as a result of pioneering. (Eph. 4:13) Furthermore, pioneers are often privileged to see Jehovah's hand at work in their behalf.—Acts 11:21; Phil. 4:11-13.

7 Perhaps one of the greatest blessings of pioneering is that it helps us draw close to Jehovah. This can sustain us through trials. A sister who endured a period of severe difficulty said: "The close relationship that I have developed with Jehovah through pioneering helped me through it all." She added: "I feel so happy that I've spent my adult life serving Jehovah full-time. It has enabled me to give of myself in ways I never thought I could." (Acts 20:35) May we likewise experience rich blessings as we do our utmost in the all-important preaching work. —Prov. 10:22.

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1. Why is now the time to preach?
2. How are servants of Jehovah demonstrating that they recognize the urgency of the times?
3. What adjustments do publishers often need to make in order to pioneer?
4. What practical steps can help you to work toward the goal of pioneering?
5. How does pioneering help us to improve our skills in the ministry?
6. What training does pioneering provide?
7. How does pioneering help us to draw close to Jehovah?

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 29, 2005. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 4 through August 29, 2005. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. When sharing our hope with others, how can we let our "reasonableness become known to all men," and why is this important? (Phil. 4:5; Jas. 3:17) [*be* p. 251 pars. 1-3, box]
2. How will knowing when to yield help us deal successfully with others? [*be* p. 253 pars. 1-2]
3. Why is skillful use of questions important when we help others to reason on a matter? [*be* p. 253 pars. 3-4]
4. What factors should be considered in order to make a presentation persuasive? [*be* p. 255 pars. 1-4, box; p. 256 par. 1, box]
5. What should we keep in mind if we decide to use corroborative evidence to support the reasonableness of the Scriptures? [*be* p. 256 pars. 3-5, box]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What clear evidence testifies to the historicity of Jesus? [*w*03 6/15 pp. 4-7]
7. How does 'the mouth of the upright ones deliver them,' and how does the very house of the righteous ones "keep standing"? (Prov. 12:6, 7) [*w*03 1/15 p. 30 pars. 1-3]
8. Since the Bible is not written in the form of a list of dos and don'ts, how can we '*perceive* what the will of Jehovah is'? (Eph. 5:17) [*w*03 12/1 p. 21 par. 3–p. 22 par. 3]
9. What Bible principles when applied can help one to cope with poverty or unfavorable economic circumstances? [*w*03 8/1 p. 5 pars. 2-5]
10. How should Jehovah's example in freely giving affect us? (Matt. 10:8) [*w*03 8/1 pp. 20-2]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What was signified by the two pillars named Jachin and Boaz at the entrance to the temple built by Solomon? (1 Ki. 7:15-22)
12. Was Solomon's gift of 20 cities in the land of Galilee to King Hiram of Tyre in harmony with the Mosaic Law? (1 Ki. 9:10-13)
13. What lesson can we learn from the disobedience of "a man of God"? (1 Ki. 13:1-25)
14. In what way did King Asa of Judah demonstrate his courage, and what can we learn from his example? (1 Ki. 15:11-13)
15. How does the incident involving King Ahab and Naboth illustrate the danger of self-pity? (1 Ki. 21:1-16)

Are You Using Handbills?

One day an 11-year-old boy found a handbill advertising a public lecture on the subject of hell. "This keenly interested me," he later explained, "as it seemed that I was always doing the wrong thing, and so I worried a lot about going to a burning hell when I died." He attended the lecture, and about a year later, after several sessions of Bible study, he was baptized. Thus began the Christian career of Karl Klein, who later served for many years as a member of the Governing Body of Jehovah's Witnesses. It all began with a handbill.

Handbills continue to be an effective witnessing tool today. Many publishers find that handing one to a person is a good way to introduce themselves and start conversations. Parents can involve their young children in the ministry by having them offer a handbill at the door. Publishers who share in witnessing by letter can advertise the meetings by enclosing a handbill. And, of course, handbills are a convenient way to invite Bible students and other interested ones to come to our meetings.

On the front of the handbill is a brief description of each congregation meeting. Since the Kingdom Hall address and meeting times are not included, you will need to supply that information when offering the handbill. There is space to print or stamp that information on the handbill if desired.

Are you making good use of handbills in your ministry?

CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY REVIEW

This material will be used on the Service Meeting program shortly before and shortly after the congregation attends the circuit assembly for the 2006 service year. The presiding overseer will arrange for this preview and review, as outlined in the August 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. During the review, all the questions should be asked, focusing attention on how we can apply the information that was presented.

FIRST DAY

1. How do we put on the new personality, and why must we maintain it?
2. How have some increased their share in the preaching work?
3. Why should we avoid comparing ourselves with others?
4. How can family members manifest the new personality within the family circle?
5. How can we show loyal support within the congregation?
6. Why do we need to display the new personality in the field ministry?
7. What does proper meditation include, and how do we benefit from such meditation?
8. What qualities will make us malleable in Jehovah's hands?

SECOND DAY

9. How important is it to use our tongue aright?
10. What benefits come from using wholesome speech with workmates, schoolmates, and others?
11. How can we apply Paul's counsel at Ephesians 4:25-32 in our dealings with fellow believers?
12. What is the most honorable use of our tongue?
13. What must we do in order to conquer the wicked one?
14. In what areas should we endeavor to remain without spot from the world?
15. Why must we daily renew the person we are inside, and how can we do so?
16. What counsel from this year's circuit assembly program are you planning to apply?

New Circuit Assembly Program

During the final days of this corrupt old world, it is vital that we maintain our spiritual attire and safeguard our Christian identity. (Rev. 16:15) It is appropriate, therefore, that the theme of the circuit assembly program for the 2006 service year is "Clothe Yourselves With the New Personality."—Col. 3:10.

First Day: The first symposium, "Manifesting Aspects of the New Personality," will highlight how cultivating the new personality benefits us in every area of our lives. How do we cultivate the new personality? That will be considered in the last two talks of the first day, "Discipline Yourself to Meditate Properly" and "Education That Molds the New Personality."

Second Day: How the new personality influences our use of the tongue will be considered in the second symposium, "Cultivating the Tongue of Wise Ones." "Are You Conquering the Wicked One?" is the theme of the public address, which will highlight the need to remain alert to Satan's tactics. The last two talks of the assembly, "Keep Yourself Without Spot From the World" and "Daily Renewing the Man We Are Inside," will help us to shun attitudes and conduct that conflict with God's righteous ways and to remain steadfast in our worship of Jehovah.

How we look forward to receiving this encouragement to put on and maintain the new personality!

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY DAY REVIEW

This material will be used on the Service Meeting program shortly before and shortly after the congregation attends the special assembly day for the 2006 service year. The presiding overseer will arrange for this preview and review, as outlined in the August 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. During the review, all the questions should be asked, focusing attention on how we can apply the information that was presented.

MORNING SESSION

1. What does it mean to keep one's eye simple, and why is that a challenge today? ("Why Keep Your Eye Simple?")
2. How do we benefit by keeping a simple eye? ("Reap Blessings for Keeping a Simple Eye")
3. What danger do many so-called normal activities pose? ("Keeping a Simple Eye in a Wicked World")

AFTERNOON SESSION

4. How can parents and others encourage youths to pursue spiritual goals? ("Parents Who Aim Their Arrows Aright" and "Youths Who Reach Out for Spiritual Goals")
5. How can we move ahead with Jehovah's organization (a) as individuals? (b) as families? (c) as a congregation? ("Focus On Moving Ahead With Jehovah's Organization")

New Special Assembly Day Program

The eye is a marvel of design. (Ps. 139:14) Yet, it can focus on only one thing at a time. That is true both literally and figuratively. For our spiritual vision to be clear and in focus, we must center our attention on doing God's will. In view of the ever-increasing distractions of Satan's world, how appropriate that the special assembly day program for the 2006 service year will develop the theme "Keep Your Eye Simple"!—Matt. 6:22.

How can we put ourselves in line to receive blessings from Jehovah? (Prov. 10:22) This question will be considered in the part "Reap Blessings for Keeping a Simple Eye." Interviews will highlight how we can benefit from applying Scriptural principles. The first talk by the visiting speaker, "Keeping a Simple Eye in a Wicked World," will warn us of things that can complicate our lives and gradually choke our spirituality. We will also learn what is involved in choosing "the good portion."—Luke 10:42.

How can parents and others encourage young Christians to focus on spiritual pursuits? The parts "Parents Who Aim Their Arrows Aright" and "Youths Who Reach Out for Spiritual Goals" will include expressions from parents and youths on this important question. (Ps. 127:4) The concluding talk by the visiting speaker will consider how we can keep pace with Jehovah's organization as individuals, as families, and as a congregation.

Whether we are newly acquainted with the truth or have been serving Jehovah for decades, it is vital that we 'keep our eye simple.' The special assembly day program will help us to do just that.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **August:** *Worship the Only True God.* If a Bible study is started, it is recommended that the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure be studied before the *Worship God* book. **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure and make a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Knowledge* book or the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?*

- On August 26 and 27, 2005, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Wallkill Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

- Since October has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

- Pages 5 and 6 of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* should be kept for use in connection with the circuit assembly and special assembly day programs for the 2006 service year.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

- The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close to August 31, 2005, as possible. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the *Literature Inventory* form (S-18). The total number of magazines on hand should be obtained from the magazine servant(s). The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form. Each coordinating congregation will receive three *Literature Inventory* forms (S-18). *Please mail the original to the branch office no later than September 6.* Keep a copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet.

- Congregations should begin requesting the *2006 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses, Examining the Scriptures Daily—2006,* and the *2006 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed to all congregations each month.

A Witness Without Words

1 Without uttering a word, Jehovah's physical creation speaks volumes about his invisible qualities. (Ps. 19:1-3; Rom. 1:20) Similarly, our fine conduct, Christian qualities, and modest appearance give a witness without words. (1 Pet. 2:12; 3:1-4) It should be the desire of each of us to "adorn the teaching of our Savior, God, in all things" by the way we comport ourselves.—Titus 2:10.

2 How is it possible for imperfect humans to add luster to Bible teachings? This is possible only through the guidance of God's Word and the power of holy spirit. (Ps. 119:105; 143:10) God's word "is alive and exerts power and is sharper than any two-edged sword." (Heb. 4:12) It penetrates deep within us and enables us to put on the new personality. (Col. 3:9, 10) Holy spirit produces in us desirable qualities, such as kindness, goodness, mildness, and self-control. (Gal. 5:22, 23) Are we individually allowing God's word and spirit to work in our lives?—Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 2:13.

3 **Others Take Notice:** When we live by Jehovah's standards and strive to reflect his qualities, others take notice. Consider, for example, a man who was ridiculed by his workmates because he was short. A sister who worked in the same office always treated him with dignity and respect. This moved him to ask her why she was so different. She explained that her respectful conduct was the result of applying Bible principles in her life. She also shared with him the marvelous Kingdom hope. The man began to study the Bible and eventually progressed to baptism. When he returned to his homeland, his relatives were impressed by his fine conduct, and several of them also accepted the truth.

4 At work, in school, or in dealing with relatives and neighbors, we can by our fine conduct, along with our witnessing, cause others to give glory to God.—Matt. 5:16.

Starting Bible Studies at the Doorstep and by Telephone

[1] People today are busy. Yet, many have an interest in spiritual things. How can we help them to satisfy their spiritual need? (Matt. 5:3) Many publishers are able to study the Bible with people at their doorstep or by telephone. Could you expand your ministry in this manner?

[2] To start Bible studies, we need to be prepared to demonstrate a Bible study whenever the opportunity presents itself. How and where can this be done?

[3] **At the Doorstep:** When you meet a person who is willing to converse about the Bible, simply open to a paragraph that you have prepared in advance, such as the first paragraph of lesson 1 in the *Require* brochure, and begin. Read the paragraph, consider the question, and discuss one or two cited scriptures. Often this can be done right at the doorstep in five to ten minutes. If the person enjoys the discussion, make an arrangement to consider the next paragraph or two at another time.—Further suggestions on using the direct approach to start studies can be found in the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 6.

[4] A similar approach can be used to start Bible studies when making return visits. For example, you might introduce the *Require* brochure and feature God's name, using lesson 2, paragraphs 1-2. On the next visit, you could discuss what the Bible reveals about Jehovah's qualities, using paragraphs 3-4. For the following discussion, you could consider paragraphs 5-6 and the picture on page 5 to highlight how a study of the Bible helps us to get to know Jehovah. All of this can take place while standing at the doorstep.

[5] **By Telephone:** Some people may be more willing to study the Bible by telephone than in person. Consider the following experience: While preaching from house to house, a sister met a young woman who is a mother and a busy career woman. When the sister was unable to contact her again at home, she decided to telephone her. The young woman explained that she really did not have time to discuss the Bible. The sister said: "In 10 or 15 minutes, you can learn something new, even by telephone." "Well, if it's by phone, then, OK!" answered the woman. Before long, a regular study was being conducted over the telephone.

[6] Would some of those whom you visit be willing to study by telephone? You could try the approach just described, or you might simply say: "If you prefer, we could discuss the Bible by telephone. Would that be better for you?" By adapting our Bible study program to the circumstances of others, we may help them to "find the very knowledge of God."—Prov. 2:5; 1 Cor. 9:23.

1, 2. How may we adapt our Bible study program to help busy people?

3. Why demonstrate a Bible study on the initial call, and how can this be done?

4. How might we start a Bible study at the doorstep when making return visits?

5, 6. (a) Why may some people prefer to study the Bible by telephone? (b) What approach can we use when offering to study by phone?

What to Say About the Magazines

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Aug. 15

"After a tragic loss, many wonder what happens at death. Do you think that it is possible to understand death? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains what the Bible says about the condition of the dead. It also discusses God's promise to resurrect our deceased loved ones." Read John 5:28, 29.

Awake!® Aug. 22

"Did you know that tourism has been called the world's number one employer? [Allow for response.] The rise of tourism has brought both benefits and problems. This magazine examines the pros and cons of the modern tourist industry. It also offers some practical tips for international travelers."

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Sept. 1

"In today's world, loyalty is a virtue that is more often praised than practiced. Wouldn't it be wonderful if more people were like the friend described here? [Read Proverbs 17:17. Then allow for response.] This magazine discusses the benefits that come from being loyal to our family and friends."

Awake!® Sept. 8

"Perhaps you have marveled at the cooperation that exists in nature. [Mention one of the examples cited in the article.] Isn't it sad that we do not see more cooperation between humans? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains how God will soon bring peace and harmony to our earth." Read Isaiah 11:9.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/05 Vol. 48, No. 9

Dear Kingdom Publishers:

With the start of the new service year, there are 9 new circuits in the United States branch territory, making a total of 41 new circuits in the last five years. Of these, 22 are Spanish, 11 are English, and 8 are other languages. The United States branch territory now comprises 580 circuits and 45 districts.

Outstanding work is being done to spread the good news in Bermuda and the Turks and Caicos islands, which are part of the United States branch territory. The 679 publishers serving on these islands conduct an average of 536 Bible studies each month, and their Memorial attendance of 1,385 was more than twice the number of publishers.

At Wallkill, visitors have been coming in record numbers to see the completed printery addition. After visiting for the first time, one older sister said: "This tour was awe-inspiring! I have so much to tell the brothers back home. If Jehovah is willing, I plan to come back every year."

The printery expansion and other Bethel construction projects were accomplished, thanks to the help of more than 1,500 Regional Building Committee volunteers. A brother overseeing the construction work stated: "The willingness of those invited has been encouraging, and their experience has been a tremendous asset. We sincerely appreciate their help."

We would also like to express our gratitude to the many thousands of brothers and sisters who came from 45 states to assist those whose homes were damaged or destroyed by the hurricanes that struck Florida. How privileged we are to be part of a loving Christian brotherhood!—1 Pet. 2:17.

All this zealous activity in advancing Kingdom interests is commendable! Your generous financial support of the work is also very much appreciated. (Prov. 3:9, 10) May Jehovah continue to bless our united efforts to "serve for the praise of his glory."—Eph. 1:12.

Your brothers,

U. S. Branch Office

Use Your Time Wisely

[1] Our desire to please Jehovah moves us to center our lives on spiritual activities. His Word instructs us to 'keep on seeking first the kingdom' and to "make sure of the more important things." (Matt. 6:33; Phil. 1:10) How can we buy out time for Kingdom interests and keep less important activities in their place?—Eph. 5:15-17.

[2] **Put Kingdom Activities First:** Schedule your time so that it is not wasted on nonessentials. Some start each month by blocking out specific times on their calendar for the field ministry. Then they are careful not to allow other matters to interfere with those plans. The same can be done to buy out time for meetings, personal study, and conventions. Many have a daily plan that begins or ends with Bible reading. Set aside a specific time for each important activity, and do not let other things needlessly interfere.—Eccl. 3:1; 1 Cor. 14:40.

[3] **Limit Use of the World:** In some lands, sports, entertainment, recreation, hobbies, and other pursuits are readily available. Many spend an inordinate amount of time watching television or using computers. However, becoming preoccupied with leisure activities and new gadgets that this world has to offer will inevitably lead to disappointment. (1 John 2:15-17) Hence, the Scriptures urge us not to use the world to the full. (1 Cor. 7:31) By heeding that wise counsel, you can show Jehovah that his worship occupies first place in your life.—Matt. 6:19-21.

[4] The time left for this present system is about to run out. Those who put Kingdom interests first will be happy and will gain God's favor. (Prov. 8:32-35; Jas. 1:25) May we, therefore, make wise use of this valuable resource, our time.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting September 12

Song 29

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the September 15 *Watchtower* and the September 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. Have an elder give one of the presentations and a youth give the other. After each demonstration, highlight some good aspects of the presentation.

20 min: "Use Your Time Wisely."* Invite audience to comment on how they arrange to set aside time each day to read the Bible. Encourage families and individuals to use the May 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert to schedule spiritual activities.

15 min: "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies."* Audience discussion based on parts 1 and 2 of the insert. The August 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1, may also be consulted. Why is it important to prepare thoroughly each time you conduct a Bible study? What does this involve? Invite the audience to relate how they have applied the suggestions provided. Conclude by commenting on the shaded box at the top of the first page of the insert.

Song 110 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 19

Song 168

10 min: Local announcements. Review highlights of the branch letter, which appears on the front page of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

20 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Service overseer reviews the past service year, focusing on the good things accomplished in the ministry. Give appropriate commendation. Mention one or two areas that need attention in the coming year. Comment on the activity of the pioneers, commending them for their good work. Relate the good results achieved from efforts to assist inactive ones.

15 min: "Keep Building One Another Up."* Invite the audience to comment on how they have benefited from the loving concern of others.

Song 199 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 26

Song 122

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Making Known the Good News With Magazines. During October, we will be offering *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* In an introductory talk, discuss the following suggestions from the February 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8, paragraphs 3-6: (1) Offer the magazines as a set. (2) Schedule one day each week to share in magazine work. (3) Set a personal monthly goal of magazine placements. (4) Take advantage of every appropriate opportunity to offer magazines. (5) Make good use of older issues. Make local application of these suggestions. Then demonstrate how to present the October 1 *Watchtower* and the October 8 *Awake!* using the suggestions on page 8 of this month's *Our Kingdom Ministry* (if appropriate for your territory). Other realistic presentations may also be used. In addition, draw attention to secondary articles that may appeal to people in the local territory, and demonstrate a presentation that features one of those articles. After each demonstration, highlight some good aspects of the presentation.

Song 3 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 3

Song 54

5 min: Local announcements.

20 min: "Help Others to Become 'Obedient From the Heart.'"* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

20 min: Making Jehovah's Heart Rejoice. (Prov. 27:11) Interview two or three long-time faithful servants of Jehovah. Invite each to relate one or two things that have helped them to maintain their obedience to Jehovah. Among the things that might be mentioned are diligent personal Bible study, regular meeting attendance, association with other loyal ones, whole-souled participation in the field ministry, heartfelt prayer, and avoiding unwholesome entertainment. What tests of obedience did they face, and how did they meet those tests successfully? How have they been blessed for their obedience?

Song 170 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

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SAVE Conducting Progressive Bible Studies

This insert is a compilation of key points from the series of articles on conducting progressive Bible studies that has appeared in *Our Kingdom Ministry.* All are encouraged to save this insert and to consult it when conducting Bible studies. In addition, points from this insert may be highlighted during meetings for field service, and service overseers may use it as the basis for talks they present when visiting book study groups.

Part 1: What Is a Bible Study?

If you regularly and systematically have Bible discussions, though brief, using the Bible or along with it one of the recommended publications, you are conducting a Bible study. The study may be reported when it has been conducted two times after the study arrangement is demonstrated and if there is reason to believe that the study will continue.—km 7/04 p. 1.

Recommended Publications

- *What Does God Require of Us?*
- *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*
- *Worship the Only True God*
- *You Can Be God's Friend!* may be used to study with people who have limited education or reading ability.

Part 2: Preparing to Conduct the Study

We need to present the information in a way that touches the student's heart. This requires thorough preparation with the student in mind.—km 8/04 p. 1.

How to Prepare

- Examine the title, subheadings, and visual aids of the chapter or lesson.
- Identify the answers to the printed questions, marking only key words and phrases.
- Decide which cited scriptures to read during the study. Make brief notes in the margin of the study publication.
- Prepare a brief review of main points.

Personalize the Lesson

- Pray about the student and his needs.
- Anticipate points that the student may have difficulty understanding or accepting.
- Consider: What does he need to understand or work on in order to make spiritual progress? How can I reach his heart?
- As needed, prepare an illustration, an explanation, or a series of questions to help the student grasp a point or a scripture.

Part 3: Effective Use of the Scriptures

Our purpose in conducting Bible studies is to "make disciples" by helping people to understand and accept the teachings of God's Word and apply them in their lives. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Thess. 2:13) Therefore, the study should center on the Scriptures.—km 11/04 p. 4.

Teach From God's Word

- Show the student how to find specific texts in his own copy of the Bible.
- Look up and discuss Bible texts that show the Scriptural basis for our beliefs.
- Use questions. Instead of explaining Bible texts to the student, have him explain them to you.

- Keep it simple. Do not try to explain every aspect of a scripture. Include *only* what is needed to make the point clear.
- Make practical application. Help the student to see how Bible texts apply to him personally.

Part 4: Training Students to Prepare

A student who reads the lesson beforehand, marks the answers, and thinks of how to express them in his own words makes rapid spiritual progress. Therefore, once a regular study has been established, prepare a lesson together to show the student how. With most students, it will be helpful to prepare an entire chapter or lesson together.—km 12/04 p. 1.

Markings and Notations

- Explain how to find direct answers to the printed questions.
- Show the student your copy of the study publication in which you have marked only the key words or phrases.
- Help the student to see that each cited text supports a point in the paragraph, and show him how to make brief notations in the margin of his study publication.

Survey and Review

- Show the student how to examine the chapter or lesson title, subheadings, and illustrations before beginning his detailed preparation.
- Encourage the student to review the main points at the conclusion of the preparation session.

Part 5: Determining How Much Material to Cover

The amount of material that can be considered will depend on the ability and the circumstances of both the teacher and the student.—km 1/05 p. 1.

Build Solid Faith

- Do not sacrifice the student's having a clear understanding of God's Word for the sake of speed.
- Spend whatever time is necessary to help the student understand and accept what he is learning.
- Allow sufficient time to consider key scriptures that provide the basis for the teachings.

Keep the Study Moving

- If the student is inclined to speak at length about personal matters, you may need to arrange to discuss these after the study.
- Do not talk excessively during the study. Limit the discussion of side points and experiences so as not to hinder the student from acquiring an accurate knowledge of basic Bible teachings.

Part 6: When a Student Raises a Question

Once a Bible study is well-established, it is usually best to consider Bible teachings in an orderly manner rather than jump from subject to subject. This helps the student to build a foundation of accurate knowledge and to progress spiritually.—km 2/05 p. 6.

Be Discerning

- Questions related to the study material can usually be answered on the spot.
- Questions unrelated to the study material or that require research can be considered at another time. It may be helpful to write down such questions.
- If the student has difficulty accepting a certain teaching, consider additional material that thoroughly discusses the subject.
- If the student is still not convinced, leave the subject for another time and continue with the study.

Be Modest

- If you do not know the answer to a question, do not venture an opinion.
- Progressively teach the student how to do research.

Part 7: Offering Prayer at the Study

In order for Bible students to make spiritual progress, Jehovah's blessing is essential. Therefore, it is proper to open and close an established study with prayer.—km 3/05 p. 4.

How to Introduce Prayer

- With those who are religiously inclined, prayer can often be offered from the very first study.
- With others, we need to discern the appropriate time to introduce prayer.
- Psalm 25:4, 5 and 1 John 5:14 can be used to explain why prayer is offered.
- John 15:16 can be used to show that we should pray to Jehovah through Jesus Christ.

What to Include in Prayers

- It is fitting to praise Jehovah as the Source of instruction.
- Express sincere interest in the student.
- Express appreciation for the organization that Jehovah is using.
- Request Jehovah's blessing on the student's efforts to apply what he is learning.

Part 8: Directing Students to the Organization

Our goal in conducting Bible studies is not only to teach doctrinal information but also to help students become part of the Christian congregation. Take a few minutes each week on the study to share a point about Jehovah's organization.—km 4/05 p. 8.

Congregation Meetings

- Describe each congregation meeting. From the first study, invite them to attend.
- Share outstanding points that were presented at the meetings.
- Build enthusiasm for the Memorial, assemblies, and the visit of the circuit overseer.
- Use photographs in our publications to help them visualize what takes place.
- Encourage them to read the brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?*

Use Videos to Build Appreciation

- *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name*
- *Our Whole Association of Brothers*
- *United by Divine Teaching*
- *To the Ends of the Earth*

Part 9: Preparing Students to Witness Informally

As Bible students begin to exercise faith in what they are learning, they are impelled to speak about it.—km 5/05 p. 1.

Encourage Them to Witness

- Are there friends and family members whom they could invite to sit in on the study?
- Have any of their workmates, schoolmates, or other acquaintances expressed interest?

Train Them to Share Their Beliefs

- At selected points during the study, ask the student, "How would you use the Bible to explain this truth to your family?"
- Help the student appreciate the need to be respectful and kind when speaking with others about God and his purposes.

- The brochure *Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe?* can be used by students to help friends and family members understand our Bible-based beliefs and activities.

Part 10: Training Students in the House-to-House Ministry

When the elders determine that a Bible student qualifies as an unbaptized publisher, he may begin to share with the congregation in the public preaching work.—km 6/05 p. 1.

Preparing Together

- Show the new publisher where he can find suggested presentations.
- Help him select a simple approach that is practical for the local territory.
- Encourage him to feature the Bible in his ministry.
- Rehearse together. Show him how to handle common responses tactfully.

Preaching Together

- Let the student observe as you give the presentation that you prepared together.
- Take into consideration the personality and abilities of the student. In some cases, it may be best to have him give only part of the presentation.
- Help the new publisher establish a regular schedule for participating in the ministry.

Part 11: Helping Students to Make Return Visits

Preparation for a return visit begins with the initial call. Encourage the student to take a sincere interest in those with whom he speaks. Progressively train him to draw them out, to listen to their comments, and to note the things that concern them.—km 7/05 p. 1.

Preparing to Return

- Review the initial call, and help the student select a subject that will appeal to the householder.
- Prepare a brief presentation that features one Bible text along with one paragraph in a publication.
- Prepare a question that can be raised at the conclusion of the discussion.

Follow Up Interest Diligently

- Encourage the student to return promptly on all who show interest.
- Help the student see the need to persist in trying to reach those who are hard to find.
- Show the new publisher how to make appointments, and help him appreciate the need to return as promised.

Part 12: Helping Students Start and Conduct Bible Studies

Your imitating Jesus by setting a proper example in your own ministry is vital. As your student observes your lead in the ministry, he will appreciate that the objective in making return visits is to start Bible studies.—km 8/05 p. 1.

Offering a Bible Study

- Explain to the student that it is not generally necessary to describe the study arrangement in detail.
- Often it is best simply to demonstrate the study using one or perhaps two paragraphs from a study publication.
- Review and rehearse one of the suggestions for starting Bible studies. —*km* 8/05 p. 8; *km* 1/02 p. 6.

Training Students to Be Teachers

- Encourage students to enroll in the Theocratic Ministry School.
- Arrange for new publishers to go on other Bible studies in which they might have a small share in teaching.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **September:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* Before requesting additional supplies from the branch office, congregations should use what is available locally and check if nearby congregations have a surplus on hand. **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure and make a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Knowledge* book or the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.*

- The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

- The special public talk for the 2006 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 30. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before Sunday, April 30, 2006.

- Since October has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

- Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2005 and the *Watchtower Library—2005 Edition* on CD-ROM with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please note that *Watchtower Library—2005 Edition* is a provision for baptized members of the congregation and is made available only through the congregation.

- During the 2006 service year, all who are serving as auxiliary pioneers during the month in which the circuit overseer visits the congregation will be invited to attend the first half of the meeting held with the pioneers during the week of the visit. All who can do so are encouraged to benefit from this special arrangement.

- Beginning with the October 2005 issue, the branch service report in *Our Kingdom Ministry* will appear one month later than it had previously. Thus, the June service report will appear in the October issue instead of the September issue. This adjustment will bring *Our Kingdom Ministry* for the United States in line with that of other branches.

- The *Annual Congregation Property Documents Review Work Sheet* (T-33-E) and *Safety Inspection Work Sheet* (T-34-E) are to be completed each September by the secretary of the congregation holding title to Kingdom Hall property. Copies of the completed forms should promptly be provided to the body of elders for each congregation meeting in the Kingdom Hall and to the Regional Building Committee. If corrective actions are needed, the elders should care for these. When the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he will review both work sheets.

Keep Building One Another Up

¹ The apostle Paul did all that he could to strengthen fellow believers. (Acts 14:19-22) Likewise, we are concerned when our brothers face difficult situations, and we want to help them. The Bible indicates that all, not just elders, should take an interest in others. (Rom. 15:1, 2) Consider two ways in which we can heed the loving admonition: "Keep comforting one another and building one another up."—1 Thess. 5:11.

² **Discern Others' Needs:** God's Word reports that Dorcas "abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy." (Acts 9:36, 39) She took note of those who were in need and did what she could to help them. What a fine example she set for us! You may learn that an older one needs a ride to the meeting. Or there may be a pioneer who has no one to work with in service on a weekday afternoon. If you discern such a need and offer practical assistance, imagine how that one will be encouraged!

³ **Spiritual Conversations:** We can also build others up by our speech. (Eph. 4:29) An experienced elder observed: "If you want to be encouraging, talk about spiritual things. To start an upbuilding conversation, you might use a simple question, such as, 'How did you learn the truth?'" Show a sincere interest in the young people in the congregation. Reach out to those who are discouraged and those who may be shy. (Prov. 12:25) Do not allow discussing the world's entertainment to crowd out good spiritual discussions with fellow believers.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

⁴ What, though, can you say to build others up? In your personal Bible reading and study, did you recently find a principle that deepened your appreciation for Jehovah? Were you moved by something you heard in a public talk or at a *Watchtower* Study? Or was your heart touched by a faith-strengthening experience? If you treasure up such spiritual gems, you will always have something encouraging to share with others.—Prov. 2:1; Luke 6:45.

⁵ By offering practical assistance and making wise use of our tongue, may we keep building one another up.—Prov. 12:18.

Help Others to Become "Obedient From the Heart"

[1] Obedience is fundamental to worshipping Jehovah acceptably. (Deut. 12:28; 1 Pet. 1:14-16) Soon, God's judgment will come upon "those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news." (2 Thess. 1:8) How can we help others to become "obedient from the heart" to the teachings of God's Word?—Rom. 6:17.

[2] **By Helping to Build Faith and Love:** In the Scriptures, obedience is closely associated with faith. The apostle Paul spoke of "the command of the everlasting God to promote *obedience by faith.*" (Rom. 16:26) Hebrews chapter 11 cites numerous examples of faith, many of which involved acting in harmony with Jehovah's expressed will. (Heb. 11:7, 8, 17) On the other hand, disobedience is associated with lack of faith. (John 3:36; Heb. 3:18, 19) We need to develop skill in the use of God's Word in order to help others develop the kind of faith that produces obedience.—2 Tim. 2:15; Jas. 2:14, 17.

[3] Obedience is also linked with love for God. (Deut. 5:10; 11:1, 22; 30:16) "This is what the love of God means," says 1 John 5:3, "that we *observe his commandments;* and yet his commandments are not burdensome." How can we help Bible students to develop love for Jehovah? Look for opportunities during the study to build appreciation for Jehovah's qualities. Express your own deep feelings for God. Help the student think in terms of developing a personal relationship with Jehovah. More than anything else, love for Jehovah will motivate others—as well as ourselves—to obey him from the heart.—Matt. 22:37.

[4] **By Our Example:** A powerful means by which we can encourage others to obey the good news is by our example. However, constant effort is required on our part to cultivate "an obedient heart." (1 Ki. 3:9; Prov. 4:23) What does this involve? Nourish your heart through regular Bible study and meeting attendance. (Ps. 1:1, 2; Heb. 10:24, 25) Seek association with those whose hearts are unified in true worship. (Prov. 13:20) Share regularly in the field ministry, with a sincere desire to help people in your territory. Pray for Jehovah's help to guide the development of a good heart. (Ps. 86:11) Avoid things that can corrupt your heart, such as immoral or violent entertainment. Pursue things that bring you closer to God and that strengthen your relationship with him.—Jas. 4:7, 8.

[5] Jehovah assured his ancient people that blessings would overtake them if they listened to his voice. (Deut. 28:1, 2) Likewise today, Jehovah is richly blessing "those obeying him as ruler." (Acts 5:32) By our teaching and example, therefore, may we help others to become obedient from the heart.

1. What does Jehovah require of his worshippers?
2. Why is it important to help others build strong faith?
3. (a) How is obedience linked with love? (b) How can we help Bible students to develop love for Jehovah?
4. (a) Why is our example important? (b) What must we do to cultivate "an obedient heart"?
5. How are obedient ones being blessed?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Sept. 15

"People around the earth have heard of Jesus Christ. Some say he was no more than an outstanding man. Others worship him as God Almighty. Who do you think Jesus Christ was? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains exactly who he was, where he came from, and where he is now." Read John 17:3.

Awake!® Sept. 22

"Many people cannot afford a decent place to live. Do you think that one day there will be adequate housing for everyone? [Allow for response.] *Awake!* features an updated report on the housing crisis. It also shows why we can be confident that this promise of God will be fulfilled." Read Isaiah 65:21, 22.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Oct. 1

Read the question on the cover. Then ask: "Do you know which sign this is referring to? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 24:3.] This issue of *The Watchtower* considers five key elements of the sign and explains why we need to recognize it." Show the box on page 6.

Awake!® Oct. 8

"The misuse of alcohol causes countless problems. This magazine shows the effect that alcohol has on the body. [Show picture on page 7.] These articles discuss how people can break free from alcohol abuse and what others can do to be of help."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/05 Vol. 48, No. 10

Keep Speaking God's Word With Boldness

1 As Christian ministers, we know that not all will welcome our preaching. (Matt. 10:14) However, we do not allow the negative response of some to cause us to hold back from making known the good news. (Prov. 29:25) What helps us to keep speaking God's word with boldness?

2 The apostle Paul appreciated "the excelling value of the knowledge of Christ Jesus." This moved him to speak with "strong conviction." (Phil. 3:8; 1 Thess. 1:5) Although some viewed the message he preached as weak and foolish, he knew that it was "God's power for salvation to everyone having faith." (Rom. 1:16) Therefore, even when facing opposition, he kept "speaking with boldness by the authority of Jehovah."—Acts 14:1-7; 20:18-21, 24.

3 **Our Source of Strength:** It was not in his own strength that Paul was able to give a bold witness. Speaking of himself and Silas, Paul wrote: "After we had first suffered and been insolently treated . . . in Philippi, we mustered up boldness *by means of our God* to speak to you the good news of God with a great deal of struggling." (1 Thess. 2:2; Acts 16:12, 37) Further, while imprisoned in Rome, Paul requested that others pray in his behalf in order that he might continue to make known the good news 'with boldness as he ought to speak.' (Eph. 6:18-20) By relying on Jehovah rather than himself, Paul was able to keep speaking God's word with boldness.—2 Cor. 4:7; Phil. 4:13.

4 The same is true today. A brother who found it very difficult to identify himself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses at his workplace and to witness informally prayed about the matter and started to witness. A workmate initially rejected his efforts, but mention of the resurrection hope led to a Bible study. From then on, the brother seized every opportunity to give a witness. At his next place of employment, he helped 34 persons to baptism over a period of 14 years. We can be confident that Jehovah will likewise strengthen us 'to keep speaking his word with all boldness.'—Acts 4:29.

Show Personal Interest —By Being Kind

1 Recalling the first time that she met one of Jehovah's Witnesses, a woman who had been prejudiced against the Witnesses said: "I really don't remember what we talked about, but what I remember is how kind she was to me, and how hospitable and humble she was. I really felt drawn to her as a person." These comments highlight the importance of showing sincere personal interest in those to whom we preach. —Phil. 2:4.

2 **Love Is Kind:** One way we can demonstrate love for others is by being kind. (1 Cor. 13:4) A kind person takes an active interest in the welfare of others, seeking to do helpful things for them. Of course, the preaching work is in itself an act of kindness. But our genuine concern for people will be reflected in more than simply preaching to them. Our entire manner of dealing with people—our friendliness, our good manners, the way we listen, the things we say and how we say them, even the way we look at others—will reveal that we really care.—Matt. 8:2, 3.

3 Loving concern for people will also move us to offer help in practical ways. While preaching from door to door, a pioneer brother was quickly dismissed by an elderly widow when she learned who he was. She mentioned that she had been on a stepladder in the kitchen trying to replace a lightbulb when he rang the doorbell. "It isn't safe for you to be doing that alone," he said. She invited him in. He changed the bulb and then went on his way. When the woman's son stopped by a short time later to check on her, she told him what had happened. He was so impressed that he sought to find the brother to express his appreciation. This led to a fine conversation, resulting in the son accepting a Bible study.

4 By being kind, we reflect Jehovah's love for people and beautify the Kingdom message. Therefore, may we always "recommend ourselves as God's ministers . . . by kindness." —2 Cor. 6:4, 6.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 10

Song 17

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the October 15 *Watchtower* and the October 22 *Awake!* After each demonstration, highlight some good aspects of the presentation. In addition, draw attention to secondary articles that may appeal to people in the local territory.

15 min: Do You Have Good Reading Habits? Audience discussion based on selected portions of the *Ministry School* book, pages 21-6. What can be included in our reading program? (p. 21, box) Why is it important for us to read the publications that are provided? (p. 23, par. 2) What is the key to maintaining a good reading program? (p. 26, pars. 3-4) How do you set aside time to read the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines? How has this benefited you?

20 min: "Keep Speaking God's Word With Boldness."* Invite the audience to comment on situations in which it can be a challenge to muster up the boldness needed to give a witness. What has helped them to do so?

Song 78 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 17

Song 36

10 min: Local announcements. Using part 3 of the September 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, review one or two points on how to make effective use of the Scriptures when conducting Bible studies.

15 min: Avoid the Dangers of the Internet. A talk by an elder based on the December 8, 2004, *Awake!* pages 18-21.

20 min: "Show Personal Interest —By Being Kind."* Invite the audience to comment on how we can show kindness to others when sharing in the field ministry. Other aspects of showing personal interest in those to whom we preach will be considered in future issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 2 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 24

Song 68

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Using one of the suggested presentations in the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert or another approach that is appropriate for your territory, demonstrate how to present the literature offer for November.—See the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8, par. 5.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Reflecting God's Standards in Our Dress and Grooming. Talk and audience discussion to be handled by an elder based on the August 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 17-19. Invite the audience to comment on how our exemplary appearance can open the way to give a witness.

Song 153 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 31

Song 209

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for October. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the November 1 *Watchtower* and the November 8 *Awake!* In one of the presentations, lay the groundwork for the next visit by drawing attention to the box "In Our Next Issue." —See the October 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* p. 8, pars. 7-8.

15 min: Use a Magazine Route to Cultivate Interest. Talk and audience discussion based on the May 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 8. How can we start a magazine route? (par. 1) How can we prepare a series of one-scripture discussions? (par. 3) Why do we need to do more than just read the selected scripture? (par. 4) How can a magazine-route call become a Bible study? (par. 5) Include a demonstration of a publisher having a one-scripture discussion with someone on his magazine route.

20 min: Youths Who Are Resolute yet Respectful. Talk by an elder based on the September 15, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 23-4, under the subheading "Refrain Respectfully." Arrange in advance for one or two youths to comment on the challenges they have faced at school and what has helped them to deal with these successfully.

Song 222 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 7

Song 39

5 min: Local announcements.

20 min: Improve Your Concentration at Meetings. Talk and audience discussion based on the September 15, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 12-14, paragraphs 11-14. Review the suggestions provided, and invite the audience to comment on what has helped them to get the most benefit from congregation meetings.

20 min: "Develop Skill in Reasoning With Others."* Invite selected publishers to relate how they have been able to reason with people of various backgrounds in the local territory.

Song 50 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**207**	**99.5**	**89.8**	**44.4**	**4.9**
Pios.	**90,685**	**63.6**	**42.1**	**20.0**	**1.9**
Aux. Pios.	**21,903**	**49.6**	**37.0**	**12.1**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**860,915**	**9.4**	**8.4**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**973,710**	Baptized: **2,737**			

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THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2006

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2006 the following will be the arrangements for conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *The Watchtower* [*w*], *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* [*be*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (1989 Edition) [*rs*].

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as outlined below. After each part, the school overseer will introduce the next part.

SPEECH QUALITY: 5 minutes. The school overseer, the auxiliary counselor, or another qualified elder will discuss a speech quality based on the *Ministry School* textbook. (In congregations with a limited number of elders, qualified ministerial servants may be used.)

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 10 minutes. This should be handled by a qualified elder or ministerial servant, and it will be based on *The Watchtower, Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education,* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* It is to be delivered as a ten-minute instruction talk with no oral review. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. It is expected that brothers assigned this talk will be careful to *keep within the time limit.* Private counsel may be given as needed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 10 minutes. For the first five minutes, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should apply the material to local needs. He may comment on any portion of the assigned Bible reading for the week. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. The principal objective is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value. The speaker should be careful not to exceed the five minutes allotted for the opening portion. He should ensure that five minutes are set aside for audience participation. The audience should be invited to offer *brief* comments (30 seconds or less) on what they have appreciated in the Bible reading and its benefits. The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 4 minutes or less. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. He should read the superscription when handling an assignment from the Psalms. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. Students receiving this assignment will either be assigned a setting or select one from the list appearing on page 82 of the *Ministry School* textbook. The student should use the assigned theme and apply it to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the local territory. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in our publications. Newer students should be given assignments for which references are supplied. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the material and the way she helps the householder to reason on the Scriptures and to understand the key points of the presentation. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The student should develop the assigned theme. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in our publications. When assigned to a brother, this part should be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should always be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3. The school overseer may give a brother Assignment No. 4 whenever he sees fit to do so. Please note that themes with asterisks next to them should always be assigned to brothers to develop as talks.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling the opening talk on a speech quality, Assignment No. 1, or highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

COUNSEL: 1 minute. The school overseer will take no more than *one minute* after Assignments No. 2, No. 3, and No. 4 to offer some positive observations on an aspect of the talk that was commendable. His aim is not simply to say "well done" but, rather, to draw attention to specific reasons why that aspect of the presentation was effective. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel may be given privately after the meeting or at another time.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: The body of elders may select a capable elder, if one is available in addition to the school overseer, to handle the assignment as auxiliary counselor. If there are a number of elders in the congregation, then a different qualified elder may care for this assignment each year. The auxiliary counselor's responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to brothers who present Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights. It is not necessary that he offer counsel after each of such talks by fellow elders or ministerial servants.

COUNSEL FORM: In textbook.

ORAL REVIEW: 30 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct an oral review. It will be preceded by the consideration of a speech quality and highlights from the Bible reading as outlined above. The oral review will be based on material considered in the school over the preceding two months, including the current week. If your congregation has a circuit assembly during an oral review week, then the review (and the rest of the weekly schedule) should be postponed one week and the subsequent week's schedule should be used one week early. If the circuit overseer will be visiting your congregation during an oral review week, then the song, the speech quality talk, and Bible highlights should be presented as scheduled. The instruction talk (given after the speech quality talk) should be drawn from the following week's schedule. The Theocratic Ministry School for the next week will proceed with the speech quality talk and Bible highlights as scheduled, followed by the oral review.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 2 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 29-32 Song 91
Speech Quality: Benefit Fully From the Theocratic Ministry School (*be* p. 5 ¶1–p. 8 ¶1)
No. 1: Take Delight in God's Word (*be* p. 9 ¶1-5)
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 30:1-12
No. 3: Why Genuine Christians Refrain From Using Profanity
No. 4: Sin's Effect on Our Relationship With God (*rs* p. 374 ¶2–p. 375 ¶2)

Jan. 9 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 33-36 Song 144
Speech Quality: Accurate Reading (*be* p. 83 ¶1-5)
No. 1: 2 Chronicles—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 84 ¶34-6)
No. 2: 2 Chronicles 34:1-11
No. 3: What the Bible Says About the Soul (*rs* p. 375 ¶4–p. 376 ¶4)
No. 4: Never Be Ashamed of Adhering to the Bible's Moral Standards

Jan. 16 Bible reading: Ezra 1-5 Song 137
Speech Quality: How to Read Accurately (*be* p. 84 ¶1–p. 85 ¶3)
No. 1: Introduction to Ezra (*si* p. 85 ¶1-7)
No. 2: Ezra 1:1-11
No. 3: Benefits From Having an Honest Conscience
No. 4: Animals Are Souls (*rs* p. 376 ¶5–p. 377 ¶3)

Jan. 23 Bible reading: Ezra 6-10 Song 106
Speech Quality: Words Clearly Spoken (*be* p. 86 ¶1-6)
No. 1: Ezra—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 87 ¶14-18)
No. 2: Ezra 6:1-12
No. 3: At Death, Neither Soul Nor Spirit Continues Living (*rs* p. 377 ¶4–p. 379 ¶6)
No. 4: * God's View of Marriage

Jan. 30 Bible reading: Nehemiah 1-4 Song 161
Speech Quality: How to Speak Clearly (*be* p. 87 ¶1–p. 88 ¶3)
No. 1: Introduction to Nehemiah (*si* p. 88 ¶1-5)
No. 2: Nehemiah 2:1-10
No. 3: The Most Important Kind of Security
No. 4: What Holy Spirit Is (*rs* p. 380 ¶2–p. 381 ¶1)

Feb. 6 Bible reading: Nehemiah 5-8 Song 40
Speech Quality: Correct Pronunciation—Factors to Consider (*be* p. 89 ¶1–p. 90 ¶2)
No. 1: Read the Bible Daily (*be* p. 10 ¶1–p. 12 ¶4)
No. 2: Nehemiah 5:1-13
No. 3: Evidence That a Person Has Holy Spirit (*rs* p. 381 ¶3–p. 382 ¶1)
No. 4: "Safeguard Your Heart" (Prov. 4:23)

Feb. 13 Bible reading: Nehemiah 9-11 Song 159
Speech Quality: Ways to Improve Pronunciation (*be* p. 90 ¶3–p. 92)
No. 1: Learning Peace Instead of War (*w*04 1/1 p. 6 ¶8–p. 7 ¶5)
No. 2: Nehemiah 10:28-37
No. 3: Evidence That Jehovah Loves Us
No. 4: There Is No Spirit Part of Man That Survives Death (*rs* p. 382 ¶5–p. 383 ¶2)

Feb. 20 Bible reading: Nehemiah 12-13 Song 118
Speech Quality: Fluent Delivery (*be* p. 93 ¶1–p. 94 ¶3)
No. 1: Nehemiah—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 90-1 ¶16-19)
No. 2: Nehemiah 13:1-14
No. 3: Why It Is Impossible to Communicate With the Dead (*rs* p. 384 ¶3–p. 385 ¶4)
No. 4: * Violent Video Games Are Not for Christians

Feb. 27 Bible reading: Esther 1-5 Song 215
Speech Quality: How to Improve Fluency (*be* p. 94 ¶4–p. 96 ¶3, except box on p. 95)

Oral Review

Mar. 6 Bible reading: Esther 6-10 Song 74
Speech Quality: Coping With Stuttering (*be* p. 95, box)
No. 1: Introduction to Esther and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 91-4 ¶1-6, 16-18)
No. 2: Esther 6:1-10
No. 3: A Mild Answer Can Turn Away Rage
No. 4: Why True Christians Reject All Spiritistic Practices (*rs* p. 385 ¶5–p. 387 ¶3)

Mar. 13 Bible reading: Job 1-5 Song 160
Speech Quality: Pausing for Punctuation and for Change of Thought (*be* p. 97 ¶1–p. 98 ¶5)
No. 1: Introduction to Job (*si* pp. 95-6 ¶1-6)
No. 2: Job 2:1-13
No. 3: Do Not Be Curious About Demonic Powers (*rs* p. 387 ¶4–p. 388 ¶2)
No. 4: Why True Christians Avoid Murmuring

Mar. 20 Bible reading: Job 6-10 Song 214
Speech Quality: Pausing to Emphasize, Pausing to Listen (*be* p. 99 ¶1–p. 100 ¶4)
No. 1: The Superiority of Spiritual Values (*w*04 10/15 p. 4 ¶2–p. 5 ¶3)
No. 2: Job 7:1-21
No. 3: What It Means to Be Pure in Heart
No. 4: How to Break Free From Spiritistic Influence (*rs* p. 388 ¶3–p. 389 ¶4)

Mar. 27 Bible reading: Job 11-15 Song 8
Speech Quality: Proper Sense Stress (*be* p. 101 ¶1–p. 102 ¶3)
No. 1: "Pay Attention to How You Listen" (*be* p. 13 ¶1–p. 14 ¶5)
No. 2: Job 12:1-25
No. 3: Guard Against the Spirit of Independence (*rs* p. 390 ¶1-4)
No. 4: Why the Ministry Brings Us Joy

Apr. 3 Bible reading: Job 16-20 Song 50
Speech Quality: Improving Sense Stress (*be* p. 102 ¶4–p. 104 ¶4)
No. 1: How We Show Our Love for God (*w*04 3/1 pp. 19-21)
No. 2: Job 16:1-22
No. 3: How Jehovah Draws People to Worship Him
No. 4: * The Dangers of Pride and a Rebellious Attitude (*rs* p. 391 ¶1-2)

Apr. 10 Bible reading: Job 21-27 Song 119
Speech Quality: Principal Ideas Emphasized (*be* p. 105 ¶1–p. 106 ¶2)
No. 1: Spiritual Values Bring Rewards (*w*04 10/15 p. 5 ¶4–p. 7 ¶2)
No. 2: Job 24:1-20
No. 3: Jehovah Gives Power Beyond What Is Normal
No. 4: * Be on Guard Against the Desires of the Flesh (*rs* p. 391 ¶3)

Apr. 17 Bible reading: Job 28-32 Song 100
Speech Quality: Volume Suitable to the Audience (*be* p. 107 ¶1–p. 108 ¶4)
No. 1: Listening at Meetings and Assemblies (*be* p. 15 ¶1–p. 16 ¶5)
No. 2: Job 29:1-25
No. 3: Do Not Be Dominated by the Desire of the Eyes (*rs* p. 392 ¶1-2)
No. 4: Why the Crowds Were Astounded at Jesus' Way of Teaching

Apr. 24 Bible reading: Job 33-37 Song 94
Speech Quality: How to Improve Your Volume (*be* p. 108 ¶5–p. 110 ¶2)

Oral Review

May 1 Bible reading: Job 38-42 Song 154
Speech Quality: Modulation—Adjust Your Volume (*be* p. 111 ¶1–p. 112 ¶2)
No. 1: Job—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 100 ¶39-43)
No. 2: Job 38:1-24

No. 3: How Is Isaiah 60:22 Being Fulfilled Today?
No. 4: * Abusive Speech and Violence Are Works of the Flesh (*rs* p. 392 ¶3)

May 8 Bible reading: Psalms 1-10 Song 168
Speech Quality: Modulation—Change Your Pace (*be* p. 112 ¶3-6)
No. 1: Introduction to Psalms—Part 1 (*si* p. 101 ¶1-5)
No. 2: Psalm 4:1-5:12
No. 3: Put Your Trust in God, Not Man (*rs* p. 392 ¶4–p. 393 ¶1)
No. 4: Holding to the Pattern of Healthful Words

May 15 Bible reading: Psalms 11-18 Song 217
Speech Quality: Modulation—Vary Your Pitch (*be* p. 113 ¶1–p. 114 ¶3)
No. 1: Introduction to Psalms—Part 2 (*si* p. 102 ¶6-11)
No. 2: Psalm 14:1-16:6
No. 3: In What Ways Are True Christians No Part of the World?
No. 4: Who Is to Blame for Human Suffering? (*rs* p. 393 ¶2–p. 394 ¶1)

May 22 Bible reading: Psalms 19-25 Song 23
Speech Quality: Speak With Feeling (*be* p. 115 ¶1–p. 116 ¶4)
No. 1: Good Insight Wins Favor (*w04* 7/15 p. 27 ¶4–p. 28 ¶4)
No. 2: Psalm 22:1-22
No. 3: How Did Suffering Get Started? (*rs* p. 394 ¶2-3)
No. 4: * What Are God's Reminders, and Why Should We Heed Them?

May 29 Bible reading: Psalms 26-33 Song 203
Speech Quality: Enthusiasm Appropriate to Material (*be* p. 116 ¶5–p. 117 ¶4)
No. 1: You Can Improve Your Memory (*be* p. 17 ¶1–p. 19 ¶1)
No. 2: Psalm 30:1-31:8
No. 3: In What Ways Does the Truth Set One Free?
No. 4: How We Can Avoid Much Suffering (*rs* p. 395 ¶1-2)

June 5 Bible reading: Psalms 34-37 Song 167
Speech Quality: Expressing Warmth (*be* p. 118 ¶1–p. 119 ¶5)
No. 1: The Power of Prayer (*w04* 8/15 p. 18 ¶6–p. 19 ¶10)
No. 2: Psalm 34:1-22
No. 3: Why a God of Love Has Allowed Suffering for So Long (*rs* p. 395 ¶4)
No. 4: From What Forms of Idolatry Must We Flee?

June 12 Bible reading: Psalms 38-44 Song 216
Speech Quality: Expressing Emotion (*be* p. 119 ¶6–p. 120 ¶5)
No. 1: The Role of God's Spirit in Remembering (*be* p. 19 ¶2–p. 20 ¶3)
No. 2: Psalm 40:1-17
No. 3: True Science Is Not at Odds With the Bible
No. 4: God Will Undo All the Harm His Servants Have Suffered (*rs* p. 396 ¶1-4)

June 19 Bible reading: Psalms 45-51 Song 104
Speech Quality: The Importance of Gestures and Facial Expressions (*be* p. 121 ¶1-4)
No. 1: When Does Jesus Come? (*w04* 3/1 p. 16, box)
No. 2: Psalm 46:1-47:9
No. 3: Why God Did Not Simply Overlook Adam's Sin (*rs* p. 396 ¶5–p. 397 ¶1)
No. 4: How Can a Christian Be Weak and Yet Powerful? (2 Cor. 12:10)

June 26 Bible reading: Psalms 52-59 Song 103
Speech Quality: Using Gestures and Facial Expressions (*be* p. 122 ¶1–p. 123 ¶2)
Oral Review

July 3 Bible reading: Psalms 60-68 Song 45
Speech Quality: Visual Contact in the Ministry (*be* p. 124 ¶1–p. 125 ¶4)
No. 1: What Jehovah's Humility Means for Us (*w04* 11/1 pp. 29-30)
No. 2: Psalm 60:1-61:8
No. 3: Does Participation in Christian Activities Excuse Us From Abiding by God's Laws?
No. 4: God Is Not the Cause of Physical and Mental Defects (*rs* p. 397 ¶2-4)

July 10 Bible reading: Psalms 69-73 Song 225
Speech Quality: Visual Contact When Giving a Discourse (*be* p. 125 ¶5–p. 127 ¶1)
No. 1: Why Apply Yourself to Reading? (*be* p. 21 ¶1–p. 23 ¶3)
No. 2: Psalm 71:1-18
No. 3: Jehovah Lovingly Extends to Children the Benefits of Christ's Ransom Sacrifice (*rs* p. 397 ¶5)
No. 4: * Why Christians Must Be Impartial

July 17 Bible reading: Psalms 74-78 Song 28
Speech Quality: Naturalness in the Field Ministry (*be* p. 128 ¶1–p. 129 ¶1)
No. 1: Read With the Proper Motive (*be* p. 23 ¶4–p. 26 ¶5)
No. 2: Psalm 75:1-76:12
No. 3: What Does Seeking Jehovah Involve? (Zeph. 2:3)
No. 4: God Is Not Using Natural Disasters to Punish People (*rs* p. 398 ¶1-3)

July 24 Bible reading: Psalms 79-86 Song 112
Speech Quality: Naturalness on the Platform (*be* p. 129 ¶2–p. 130 ¶1)
No. 1: "The Tent of the Upright Ones Will Flourish" (*w04* 11/15 p. 26 ¶1–p. 28 ¶2)
No. 2: Psalm 82:1-83:18
No. 3: Adversity Should Not Be Considered Proof of God's Disapproval (*rs* p. 398 ¶4–p. 399 ¶1)
No. 4: Can Imperfect Humans Really Please God?

July 31 Bible reading: Psalms 87-91 Song 57
Speech Quality: Naturalness When Reading Publicly (*be* p. 130 ¶2-4)
No. 1: When "Knowledge Is an Easy Thing" and Wisdom Guides Us (*w04* 11/15 p. 28 ¶3–p. 29 ¶7)
No. 2: Psalm 89:1-21
No. 3: Study of the Bible Is Part of Our Worship
No. 4: Material Prosperity Should Not Be Considered Proof of God's Blessing (*rs* p. 399 ¶2-3)

Aug. 7 Bible reading: Psalms 92-101 Song 190
Speech Quality: Personal Cleanliness Adorns the Message (*be* p. 131 ¶1-3)
No. 1: How to Study (*be* p. 27 ¶1–p. 31 ¶2)
No. 2: Psalm 92:1-93:5
No. 3: Does Speaking in Tongues Prove That One Has God's Spirit? (*rs* p. 400 ¶3–p. 401 ¶2)
No. 4: The Importance of Moral Integrity

Aug. 14 Bible reading: Psalms 102-105 Song 1
Speech Quality: How Modesty and Soundness of Mind Affect One's Dress and Grooming (*be* p. 131 ¶4–p. 132 ¶3)
No. 1: "How Many Your Works Are, O Jehovah!" (*w04* 11/15 pp. 8-9)
No. 2: Psalm 104:1-24
No. 3: Why We Must Keep on the Watch
No. 4: Why Is Speaking in Tongues Today Different From That Done by First-Century Christians? (*rs* p. 401 ¶3–p. 402 ¶1)

Aug. 21 Bible reading: Psalms 106-109 Song 201
Speech Quality: The Value of Well-Arranged Dress (*be* p. 132 ¶4–p. 133 ¶1)
No. 1: Youths—Do Not Blindly Follow Your Peers (*w04* 10/15 p. 22 ¶4–p. 24 ¶4)
No. 2: Psalm 107:20-43
No. 3: God's Word Helps Us to Reason On Claims That Some Make About Having God's Spirit (*rs* p. 402 ¶3-6)
No. 4: In What Ways Can We Imitate God?

Aug. 28 Bible reading: Psalms 110-118 Song 125
Speech Quality: Good Personal Appearance Gives No Cause for Stumbling (*be* p. 133 ¶2-4)
Oral Review

Sept. 4 Bible reading: Psalm 119 Song 59

Speech Quality: Good Posture and Neat Equipment (*be* p. 133 ¶5–p. 134 ¶4)

No. 1: Study Is Rewarding (*be* p. 31 ¶3–p. 32 ¶4)

No. 2: Psalm 119:25-48

No. 3: Why We Show Respect for Secular Authorities

No. 4: Speaking in Tongues Does Not Identify True Christians Today (*rs* p. 403 ¶1-3)

Sept. 11 Bible reading: Psalms 120-134 Song 65

Speech Quality: How to Reduce Speaking Anxiety (*be* p. 135 ¶1–p. 137 ¶2)

No. 1: How to Do Research (*be* p. 33 ¶1–p. 35 ¶2)

No. 2: Psalm 121:1–123:4

No. 3: How Long Was the Gift of Tongues to Last? (*rs* p. 403 ¶4–p. 404 ¶1)

No. 4: What Is Hyperbole, and How Did Jesus Make Use of It?

Sept. 18 Bible reading: Psalms 135-141 Song 97

Speech Quality: How to Acquire Poise (*be* p. 137 ¶3–p. 138 ¶5)

No. 1: Psalms—Why Beneficial—Part 1 (*si* pp. 104-5 ¶23-7)

No. 2: Psalm 136:1-26

No. 3: In What Way Is the Memorial a Communion Meal?

No. 4: # The Trinity Is Not Based on the Bible (*rs* p. 405 ¶1–p. 411 ¶4)

Sept. 25 Bible reading: Psalms 142-150 Song 5

Speech Quality: The Importance of Voice Amplification (*be* p. 139 ¶1–p. 140 ¶1)

No. 1: Psalms—Why Beneficial—Part 2 (*si* pp. 105-6 ¶28-32)

No. 2: Psalm 142:1–143:12

No. 3: # When Someone Asks, 'Do You Believe in the Trinity?' (*rs* p. 425 ¶3–p. 426 ¶4)

No. 4: In What Ways Can We Put the Needs of Others Ahead of Our Own?

Oct. 2 Bible reading: Proverbs 1-6 Song 111

Speech Quality: Use Microphones Effectively (*be* p. 140 ¶2–p. 142 ¶1)

No. 1: Introduction to Proverbs—Part 1 (*si* pp. 106-7 ¶1-5)

No. 2: Proverbs 5:1-23

No. 3: Why Is There So Much Wickedness? (*rs* p. 427 ¶1-4)

No. 4: * Do Not Spread False Stories (2 Tim. 4:4)

Oct. 9 Bible reading: Proverbs 7-11 Song 73

Speech Quality: Use of the Bible in Replying (*be* p. 143 ¶1-3)

No. 1: Introduction to Proverbs—Part 2 (*si* pp. 107-8 ¶6-11)

No. 2: Proverbs 7:1-27

No. 3: Christian Neutrality Contributes to the Unity of Our Brotherhood

No. 4: Why Does God Permit Wickedness? (*rs* p. 428 ¶1–p. 429 ¶1)

Oct. 16 Bible reading: Proverbs 12-16 Song 180

Speech Quality: How to Improve in Using the Bible (*be* p. 144 ¶1-4)

No. 1: Learning to Use Other Research Tools (*be* p. 35 ¶3–p. 38 ¶4)

No. 2: Proverbs 14:1-21

No. 3: How Has God's Permission of Wickedness Benefited Us? (*rs* p. 429 ¶2-3)

No. 4: What Can Help Us to Pay Close Attention at Meetings?

Oct. 23 Bible reading: Proverbs 17-21 Song 131

Speech Quality: Use of the Bible Encouraged (*be* pp. 145-6)

No. 1: Proverbs—Why Beneficial—Part 1 (*si* pp. 109-10 ¶19-28)

No. 2: Proverbs 17:1-20

No. 3: How Christians View the Elderly

No. 4: * What View of Women Does the Bible Promote? (*rs* p. 431 ¶2-3)

Oct. 30 Bible reading: Proverbs 22-26 Song 9

Speech Quality: The Importance of Introducing Scriptures Effectively (*be* p. 147 ¶1–p. 148 ¶2)

Oral Review

Nov. 6 Bible reading: Proverbs 27-31 Song 51

Speech Quality: Selecting Appropriate Comments to Introduce Scriptures (*be* p. 148 ¶3–p. 149 ¶2)

No. 1: Proverbs—Why Beneficial—*Part 2* (*si* pp. 110-11 ¶29-38)

No. 2: Proverbs 28:1-18

No. 3: Is the Assigning of Headship to Men Demeaning to Women? (*rs* p. 432 ¶1-3)

No. 4: Why We Should Not Judge People We Meet in the Ministry by Outward Appearances

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Nov. 13 Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 1-6 Song 25

Speech Quality: Proper Emphasis Involves Feeling (*be* p. 150 ¶1-2)

No. 1: Introduction to Ecclesiastes (*si* pp. 112-13 ¶1-8)

No. 2: Ecclesiastes 5:1-15

No. 3: How Are Bible Truths Hidden From the Wise and Intellectual Ones? (Matt. 11:25)

No. 4: Should Women Be Ministers? (*rs* p. 432 ¶4–p. 433 ¶1)

Nov. 20 Bible reading: Ecclesiastes 7-12 Song 37

Speech Quality: Emphasize the Right Words (*be* p. 150 ¶3–p. 151 ¶2)

No. 1: Ecclesiastes—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 114 ¶15-19)

No. 2: Ecclesiastes 9:1-12

No. 3: Why Do Christian Women Wear Head Coverings on Certain Occasions? (*rs* p. 433 ¶2–p. 434 ¶1)

No. 4: What Is Wrong With Jealousy?

Nov. 27 Bible reading: Song of Solomon 1-8 Song 11

Speech Quality: Methods of Emphasis (*be* p. 151 ¶3–p. 152 ¶5)

No. 1: Introduction to Song of Solomon and Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 115-17 ¶1-4, 16-18)

No. 2: Song of Solomon 7:1–8:4

No. 3: Why Should Christians Be Neat, Clean, and Modest in Their Dress?

No. 4: Is It Proper for Women to Use Cosmetics or Wear Jewelry? (*rs* p. 435 ¶1-3)

Dec. 4 Bible reading: Isaiah 1-5 Song 90

Speech Quality: Scriptures Correctly Applied (*be* p. 153 ¶1–p. 154 ¶3)

No. 1: Introduction to Isaiah (*si* pp. 118-19 ¶1-8)

No. 2: Isaiah 3:1-15

No. 3: Will the World Be Destroyed by Fire? (*rs* p. 436 ¶1-2)

No. 4: * Why Christians Should Be "Slow About Wrath" (Jas. 1:19)

Dec. 11 Bible reading: Isaiah 6-10 Song 204

Speech Quality: Making Scripture Application Clear (*be* p. 154 ¶4–p. 155 ¶4)

No. 1: Making an Outline (*be* pp. 39-42)

No. 2: Isaiah 10:1-14

No. 3: Why Is Being Able to Forgive So Important?

No. 4: Who Rules This World—God or Satan? (*rs* p. 436 ¶3–p. 437 ¶2)

Dec. 18 Bible reading: Isaiah 11-16 Song 47

Speech Quality: Reason From the Scriptures (*be* p. 155 ¶5–p. 156 ¶5)

No. 1: Youths—Let Your Parents Help You Guard Your Heart (*w*04 10/15 p. 20 ¶1–p. 22 ¶3)

No. 2: Isaiah 11:1-12

No. 3: How Do True Christians View the World and People Who Are Part of It? (*rs* p. 437 ¶3–p. 438 ¶4)

No. 4: True Christians Will Not Participate in the War of Armageddon

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Dec. 25 Bible reading: Isaiah 17-23 Song 53

Speech Quality: Practical Value Made Clear (*be* p. 157 ¶1–p. 158 ¶1)

Oral Review

*** Assign to brothers only.**

# Select a few key points from the assigned material that will best meet needs in the local territory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure and make a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Knowledge* book or the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.*

■ Since October has five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2006" and should be kept for reference throughout 2006.

■ Beginning the week of April 17, 2006, we will study *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* at the Congregation Book Study. Congregations should have on hand appropriate supplies of the regular and large-print editions at that time.

■ The video program *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* will be considered at a Service Meeting in January. If needed, copies should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 31, 2005. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 5 through October 31, 2005. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we ensure that our teaching from God's Word reaches the figurative heart of people? (Matt. 13:19) [*be* p. 258 pars. 1-2, box]
2. What can help us to draw out what is in someone's heart, but of what must we be mindful? [*be* p. 259 pars. 1-2]
3. When we teach, why is it important that we emphasize Jehovah's marvelous qualities? [*be* p. 260 par. 1]
4. How can we help our Bible students to discern areas in which they need to make improvements? [*be* p. 260 par. 4–p. 261 par. 1]
5. What can we do to help our Bible students or listeners analyze their motives for doing things? [*be* p. 262 pars. 2-3]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is meant by "earnestly seeking" Jehovah, and how can we demonstrate that we are doing this? (Heb. 11:6) [*w03* 8/15 p. 25 par. 2; p. 26 pars. 1-2; p. 27 par. 2]
7. What is "the pattern of healthful words," and how can elders show that they hold to it? (2 Tim. 1:13, 14) [*w03* 1/1 p. 29 par. 3–p. 30 par. 1]
8. What is meant by the designation "Bible canon," and what are some factors that determine the canonicity of a Bible book? [*si* p. 299 pars. 5-6]
9. Why is the Muratorian Fragment, which dates to the latter part of the second century C.E., of particular note in confirming the canonicity of the Christian Greek Scriptures? [*si* p. 302 par. 19]
10. What authority for Bible translation do the Scriptures themselves give, and what purpose has been served by ancient Bible translations? [*si* p. 307 par. 9]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Does 2 Kings 13:21 support the belief in veneration of relics?
12. Had Hezekiah made an alliance with Egypt? (2 Ki. 18:19-21, 25)
13. Although the Assyrian annals do not specifically mention Jehovah's stunning defeat of Sennacherib, what do you find interesting about what is stated in those records? (2 Ki. 19:35, 36)
14. Who was the father of Shealtiel? (1 Chron. 3:16-18)
15. In the days of King Saul, how did the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half tribe of Manasseh set a fine example for all of God's servants today? (1 Chron. 5:18-22)

Develop Skill in Reasoning With Others

1 The apostle Paul's discourse at a synagogue in Antioch of Pisidia, as recorded at Acts 13:16-41, offers a fine example of how to reason with others. Paul took into consideration the background and thinking of his listeners and adapted his presentation of the good news accordingly. As we examine this account, let us consider how we can do the same in our ministry.

2 **Seek Common Ground:** Although Paul's message centered on the key role of Jesus in the outworking of God's purpose, Paul did not begin his discourse by stating that point. Rather, he spoke about something that he shared in common with his predominantly Jewish audience—the history of the Jewish people. (Acts 13:16-22) In like manner, we will be more effective in reaching others if we seek to find common ground with them. This may require that we draw them out with tactful questions and listen carefully in order to discern what is truly important to them.

3 In discussing the history of the Jews, Paul reminded his listeners of God's promise to raise up a Savior from the line of David. Many Jews, however, were awaiting a military hero who would throw off the yoke of Roman domination and elevate the Jewish nation above all others. They were no doubt aware that Jesus had been rejected by the Jewish religious leaders in Jerusalem, handed over to the Roman authorities, and put to death. How could Paul convince them that this One was the promised Messiah?

4 **Adapt Your Approach:** Knowing the thinking of his listeners, Paul used the Scriptures to reason with them on the basis of things they had already accepted. For example, he introduced Jesus as the offspring of David and as the one identified by John the Baptizer, who was widely viewed as a prophet of God. (Acts 13:23-25) Paul pointed out that in rejecting Jesus and condemning him to death, the religious leaders had "fulfilled the things voiced by the Prophets." (Acts 13:26-28) Further, he explained that there were eyewitnesses that Jesus had been raised from the dead, and he drew attention to familiar Scriptural passages that had been fulfilled in the resurrection of Jesus.—Acts 13:29-37.

5 On the other hand, when addressing a Greek audience at the Areopagus in Athens, Paul used a different approach. (Acts 17:22-31) Yet, he presented the same basic message, and in both instances his efforts brought good results. (Acts 13:42, 43; 17:34) Similarly today, we will be more effective in our ministry if we seek to find common ground with our listeners and if we adapt our approach according to their background and thinking.

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1. What Bible account are we going to examine, and why?
2. What do we learn from the way Paul began his discourse?
3. What made it difficult for Paul's listeners to accept that Jesus was the promised Messiah?
4. How did Paul skillfully reason with his Jewish audience?
5. (a) How did Paul adapt his approach when speaking to a Greek audience? (b) How can we imitate Paul's example when witnessing in the local territory?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM® Oct. 15

"Many people view education as a key to success in life. Do you think there is a kind of education that can help one to become a better person and to cope with life's problems? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 12:2.] This magazine discusses how we can benefit from the best education available."

Awake!® Oct. 22

"Many people enjoy reading a newspaper almost every day. Do you think we can trust the information that newspapers provide? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* offers suggestions on how to benefit from reading the newspaper. It also shows why there is a need for caution." Read Proverbs 14:15.

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM® Nov. 1

"Many people are troubled by the unfairness in the world. Do you think that anyone can really change the world? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers the barriers to change. It also shows who will overcome them and how he will bring about a world of true peace and security." Read Psalm 72:12-14.

Awake!® Nov. 8

"Worldwide there is a huge gulf between the rich and the poor. Do you think anything can be done to bridge that gap? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 6:9, 10.] This magazine shows why we can be confident that God's Kingdom will eliminate the inequalities that plague mankind today."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 11/05 Vol. 48, No. 11

Declare Jehovah's Glory

1 The psalmist proclaimed: "Sing to Jehovah, all you people of the earth. . . . Declare among the nations his glory, among all the peoples his wonderful works." As we ponder what Jehovah has done, is doing, and will yet do for us, our hearts stir us to declare his glory!—Ps. 96: 1, 3.

2 **In Our Ministry:** Jehovah's Witnesses are privileged to bear God's name and to praise it publicly throughout the earth. (Mal. 1:11) What a contrast to Christendom's clergy, who presumptuously remove God's name from their Bible translations! The work of making known God's name is urgent, since people must call upon that name in faith in order to be saved through the coming great tribulation. (Rom. 10:13-15) Moreover, universal peace, including peace among earth's inhabitants, depends on the sanctification of God's name. Indeed, all of God's works are linked to his name.

3 "Jehovah is great and very much to be praised." But in order for people to "ascribe to Jehovah the glory belonging to his name," they must know the truth about him. (Ps. 96:4, 8) However, some deny that God exists. (Ps. 14:1) Others malign him as powerless, or they claim that he is not interested in mankind's affairs. As we help honesthearted ones gain accurate knowledge about our Creator, his purposes, and his endearing personality, we glorify Jehovah.

4 **By Our Conduct:** Living in harmony with Jehovah's righteous standards honors him. Our fine conduct does not go unnoticed. (1 Pet. 2:12) For example, our clean and neat personal appearance may elicit favorable comments from others, providing us with an opportunity to talk about the benefits of living by the principles found in God's Word. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) How delighted we are when others 'see our fine works and give glory to our Father who is in the heavens'!—Matt. 5:16.

5 By word and deed, let us extol our magnificent God each day, thereby responding to the joyful call: "Sing to Jehovah, bless his name. From day to day tell the good news of salvation by him."—Ps. 96:2.

Show Personal Interest —By Being Observant

1 Jehovah God and Christ Jesus excel in recognizing the specific needs of people and in offering them assistance. (2 Chron. 16:9; Mark 6:34) When we identify the interests and concerns of those we meet in our ministry, we may be able to adapt our presentation of the good news accordingly.

2 **Be Attentive to Details:** Jesus was observant. (Mark 12:41-43; Luke 19:1-6) Similarly, when we approach the householder's door and take note of religious decorations, slogans on vehicles, or toys in the yard, we may be able to create opportunities to give an effective witness of the good news.

3 A person's facial expressions and demeanor may indicate something about his feelings. (Prov. 15:13) Perhaps the loss of a loved one or some other distressing circumstance has left him in need of comfort. Sharing some appropriate scriptures may be appreciated. (Prov. 16:24) Is the householder rushing out the door or holding a crying baby? If so, it may be better to arrange to call at another time. By being considerate and "showing fellow feeling," we may move the person to listen when we return.—1 Pet. 3:8.

4 **Adapt Your Comments:** The apostle Paul observed that the city of Athens had an altar dedicated "To an Unknown God." This influenced the way he presented the good news, for he said: "What you are unknowingly giving godly devotion to, this I am publishing to you." Paul's tactful approach moved some of those present to give consideration to the Kingdom message and to become believers.—Acts 17:23, 34.

5 In like manner, our being observant helps us to discern a person's interests and thus allows us to tailor our approach. Use questions that might serve to draw out the householder. Think of scriptures that could be used to heighten *his interest*. (Prov. 20:5) Our being observant and showing sincere personal interest in others will help us to share the good news skillfully.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 14

Song 220

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the November 15 *Watchtower* and the November 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In each demonstration, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I'm not interested in religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pp. 16-17.

15 min: Contributions That Warm God's Heart. Talk by an elder based on the November 1, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 26-30.

20 min: "Declare Jehovah's Glory."* When considering paragraph 4, invite the audience to relate brief experiences showing how fine conduct can open the way to give a witness.

Song 24 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 21

Song 40

10 min: Local announcements.

20 min: Making Jehovah Your God. Talk by an elder based on the April 1, 2005, *Watchtower,* pages 25-8. Make practical application of the lessons we can draw from the examples of Abraham, David, and Elijah.

15 min: "Show Personal Interest—By Being Observant."* Include a demonstration of a publisher observing something that reveals the interests of the householder and then adapting his comments accordingly.

Song 67 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 28

Song 7

12 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November. Using the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December 8 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. Include mention of the donation arrangement.

15 min: "How Can We Help?" A talk. Give a few examples of the efforts made by servants of Jehovah to provide relief for fellow believers in dire need. (See the *Awake!* issues of August 8, 2003, pp. 10-15; November 22, 2002, pp. 19-24; and October 22, 2001, pp. 23-7. Other references may also be used.) Then discuss the key points from the article on page 3 of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Emphasize that if any wish to make a donation for humanitarian and relief assistance, it is preferred that they do this by contributing the funds to the worldwide work.

18 min: Presenting the Good News in December. Talk and audience discussion. In a five-minute opening talk, briefly review the following points from "How to Use Sample Presentations," found on page 8 of the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry:* (1) We will usually be more effective if we put presentations in our own words. (2) We must use good judgment and adapt our presentations according to what is acceptable locally. (3) We need to take into account the background and thinking of the people in our territory. (4) We should carefully read the chapter that we plan to feature and look for points that may stir interest. (5) We are not limited to using the approaches outlined in the sample presentations. Then discuss how to apply those points when presenting the literature offer for December. You may use the sample presentations in the January 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert or other presentations that are effective locally. Demonstrate one or two presentations.

Song 123 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 5

Song 38

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "What Our Ministry Accomplishes."* When considering paragraph 5, include comments on the February 15, 2004, *Watchtower,* page 32.

Song 26 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

	Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**266**	**95.4**	**85.4**	**43.1**	**4.5**
Pios.	**91,110**	**60.7**	**39.1**	**19.0**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**20,819**	**49.8**	**35.1**	**11.7**	**1.0**
Pubs.	**884,173**	**9.5**	**8.5**	**3.5**	**0.4**
TOTAL	**996,368**	Baptized: **5,328**			

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Knowledge* book or the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.

■ The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-4 in the form entitled *Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls* (T-36). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to confirm whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that either it is removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.

■ Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

■ If you are admitted to a hospital and want visiting local elders and, in larger cities, elders serving on a Patient Visitation Group to have access to your name, what must you do? When identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you should also explain that you are willing to have a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses visit you. A federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), protects your privacy, but with your consent, the law allows for the elders to learn of your admission and provide spiritual encouragement.

■ It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and send a *Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address* (S-29) form to the branch office promptly. This includes any changes in telephone area codes.

How Can We Help?

[1] The question "How can we help?" is often raised by Jehovah's Witnesses when they hear of a disaster that has occurred in some part of the world. As the account at Acts 11:27-30 shows, Christians in the first century provided a relief ministration to the brothers dwelling in Judea because of a famine that took place.

[2] In modern times, our organizational charters have permitted money to be used for charitable activity and to provide humanitarian assistance to those suffering from natural or man-made disasters and in other times of need.

[3] For example, last year many brothers contributed toward helping those affected by the tsunami disaster in South Asia. This heartfelt response in the way of donations to the organization's relief funds was very much appreciated. However, when donations are earmarked specifically for a certain disaster, it is necessary in some countries to use such funds only for the purpose specified by the donor and within a certain period of time, whether the needs of our brothers have been cared for locally or not.

[4] Consequently, it is recommended that donations for humanitarian and relief assistance be made to the worldwide work. This fund is used for relief efforts as well as for advancing the spiritual needs of the Christian brotherhood. If, for some reason, a person wishes to make a relief donation separate from contributions to the worldwide work, it will still be accepted and used wherever there is a need for relief assistance. However, it would be appreciated if such donations are made without restrictions as to where and how the funds may be used.

[5] Our directing donations primarily to the worldwide work allows for more funds to be available for use in connection with all features of the Kingdom work rather than being held only for future relief needs. This is in harmony with the spirit of Ephesians 4:16, that we work together to give what is needed "for the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

What Our Ministry Accomplishes

1 God's Word describes Christians as marching triumphantly in Jehovah's service, as though in a victory procession. (2 Cor. 2: 14-16) As we make known the knowledge of God, our offerings of service are like pleasing incense to Jehovah. Some people are drawn to the sweetness of the good news; others turn away from it. But the negative response of the majority does not mean that our work is unsuccessful. Consider what our ministry accomplishes.

2 **Magnifying Jehovah:** Satan contends that humans serve Jehovah for selfish reasons. (Job 1:9-11) The Christian ministry provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate that our devotion to God is genuine. Many publishers continue to obey the command to preach and make disciples despite difficult personal circumstances or the indifference of people in general. Such loyal endurance makes Jehovah's heart rejoice! —Prov. 27:11.

3 Additionally, our ministry plays a role in the outworking of God's purpose. In connection with the coming destruction of Satan's world, Jehovah says: "The nations will have to know that I am Jehovah." (Ezek. 39:7) For the nations to know this, it is imperative that God's servants continue declaring his name and purpose "to every nation and tribe and tongue and people."—Rev. 14:6, 7.

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1. How does Jehovah view our ministry, and what is the response of humans?
2. What does our ministry enable us to demonstrate?
3. Why is it so important for us to continue making known God's name and purpose?

4 **Basis for Judgment:** The preaching of the good news also serves as a basis for judgment. The apostle Paul stated that Christ Jesus will bring vengeance upon "those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news about our Lord Jesus." (2 Thess. 1: 8, 9) People will be judged by their response to the good news. What a serious responsibility this places upon God's servants! In order to avoid bloodguilt, we must not hold back from making known the lifesaving Kingdom message.—Acts 20:26, 27.

5 Our ongoing efforts to help our neighbors gain God's favor are an expression of Jehovah's mercy. (1 Tim. 2:3, 4) Knowing that the lives of people are constantly changing, we go to them again and again and urge them to seek Jehovah while there is yet time. By so doing, we reflect "the tender compassion of our God," who "does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance."—Luke 1: 78; 2 Pet. 3:9.

6 **Benefiting Ourselves:** Keeping busy in Jehovah's service is a protection for us. It helps us to keep "close in mind the presence of the day of Jehovah" and to avoid becoming defiled by the present wicked system of things. (2 Pet. 3:11-14; Titus 2:11, 12) May we, therefore, be "steadfast, unmovable, always having plenty to do in the work of the Lord," knowing that our efforts in the Christian ministry are not in vain.—1 Cor. 15:58.

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4. How does the preaching work serve as a basis for judgment?
5. How is God's mercy reflected in our ministry?
6. How does keeping busy in Jehovah's service benefit us?

What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Nov. 15

"Many people wonder why the problems plaguing mankind seem to be getting worse, not better. Have you ever considered what this verse says as a possible reason? [Read Revelation 12:9. Then allow for response.] This magazine discusses the Devil's schemes for misleading people and how we can resist his influence."

Awake!® Nov. 22

"Although enough food is produced to feed everyone on earth, some 800 million people are undernourished. Isn't that tragic? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the growing challenge of feeding the cities. It also discusses the Bible's promise of a world without hunger." Read Psalm 72:16a.

THE WATCHTOWER® ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Dec. 1

"When people hear the word 'Armageddon,' many picture a horrible mass destruction. [Show the box on page 3.] Would it surprise you to learn that Armageddon is actually one of the best things that could happen to us? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains why." Read 2 Peter 3:13.

Awake!® Dec. 8

"I was hoping to tell you about a time when everyone will have a suitable place to live. Isn't it sad that so many people are homeless? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 65:21, 22.] This magazine examines the causes of homelessness. It also explains how God will fulfill the promise we just read."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2005 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/05 Vol. 48, No. 12

Education That Leads to Life

[1] How rewarding it is to see people's eyes light up as they come to understand the truth from God's Word! Sharing with others the knowledge of God and his purpose for mankind truly is satisfying. Such education can lead a person to everlasting life.—John 17:3.

[2] **Why Superior:** Education is offered today by almost every means possible and on every subject imaginable. (Eccl. 12:12) But such knowledge cannot compare in value to "the magnificent things of God." (Acts 2:11) Has the education offered in the world been able to draw mankind any closer to the Creator and to knowing his purpose? Has it helped people to understand what happens when we die or why there is so much suffering? Has it given people hope? Has it helped to improve the family arrangement? No. Only through divine education can we find real answers to life's most important questions.

[3] Divine education provides something that is sorely lacking in today's world—moral development. God's Word uproots racism, tribalism, and nationalism from the hearts of those who accept and apply its teachings. (Heb. 4:12) It has moved people to renounce every kind of violence and to 'clothe themselves with the new personality.' (Col. 3:9-11; Mic. 4:1-3) Moreover, divine education has given millions the strength to overcome deeply embedded practices and traits that displease God.—1 Cor. 6:9-11.

[4] **Why Urgent Now:** Our Grand Instructor alerts us to the meaning of the times in which we live. His prophetic judgments contain up-to-date information that must be proclaimed earth wide. (Rev. 14:6, 7) Christ is ruling in the heavens, the world empire of false religion will soon be devastated, and God's Kingdom is poised to destroy all earthly governments. (Dan. 2:44; Rev. 11:15; 17:16) Hence, it is urgent for people to recognize God's now-reigning King, to get out of Babylon the Great, and to call upon the name of Jehovah in faith. (Ps. 2:11, 12; Rom. 10:13; Rev. 18:4) May we have the fullest share possible in imparting to others the education that leads to life.

Show Personal Interest —By Being Adaptable

[1] The apostle Paul set a fine example in always adapting his presentation of the good news to the background and thinking of his audience. (1 Cor. 9:19-23) We should endeavor to do the same. With a little forethought, we can often tailor the sample presentations that appear in *Our Kingdom Ministry* to fit the needs of the people in our territory. As we approach a door, we may notice indications of the householder's interests and incorporate these into our presentation. However, there is yet another way that we can be adaptable in our ministry.

[2] **Build on What Others Say:** When presenting the good news, we frequently pose a question and invite householders to respond. How do you view the response? Are you inclined to offer a token acknowledgment and just continue with your prepared presentation? Or does what you say reflect that you are taking into consideration the householders' comments? If you show a sincere interest in what others say, you may be able to use additional tactful questions to find out what is really on their mind. (Prov. 20:5) Thus you can focus on aspects of the Kingdom message that most directly address the listener's concerns.

[3] This requires that we be willing to talk about subjects other than those we had originally planned to discuss. If we begin by commenting on a problem that is in the news and the householder mentions a local or personal issue that concerns him, our genuine interest in meeting the needs of the householder will move us to center the Bible discussion on what matters most to him.—Phil. 2:4.

[4] **Tailoring Our Approach:** When the householder raises a question, we might find it beneficial to continue the discussion at a later time after we have been able to look up additional information on the subject. We can also offer publications that provide a more thorough consideration of the topic. All of this reflects our sincere interest in helping others come to know Jehovah.—2 Cor. 2:17.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 12

Song 32

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the December 15 *Watchtower* and the December 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. After each demonstration, comment on how easily a scripture can be included in the presentation.

15 min: "A School That Helps Us Make Practical Application." Talk by the school overseer. Include comments from the October 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

20 min: "Education That Leads to Life."* Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on how they have benefited from divine education.

Song 101 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 19

Song 160

5 min: Local announcements. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1. Remind all to bring the January 2006 issue of *Awake!* to next week's Service Meeting.

15 min: "Show Personal Interest—By Being Adaptable."* Include a brief demonstration showing how a publisher can adjust his approach based on the comments of the householder.

25 min: "Could Your Child Make a Mature Decision?"* To be handled by an elder. Have each paragraph read aloud by a brother who is a capable reader. Discuss all cited scriptures. After considering paragraph 2, contrast the situations of the two youths mentioned in paragraphs 16-17 and in the box on pages 16-17 of the June 15, 1991, *Watchtower.* In conclusion, encourage parents to review that entire article in *The Watchtower* and to follow through immediately by having discussions and practice sessions with their children about the Bible-based command regarding blood, equipping them to express their beliefs with conviction. Family heads should be sure that each baptized child is carrying a DPA card and that each unbaptized child is carrying an *Identity Card.* Whenever one is being hospitalized and blood transfusions are an issue, the elders should contact the local Hospital Liaison Committee for assistance.

Song 56 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 26

Song 85

10 min: Local announcements. Read accounts report and donation acknowledgments. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for December. If your congregation will change meeting times for the new year, announce the new times. Mention the literature offer for January, and point out where suggested presentations can be found.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: New Features of *Awake!* Talk and audience discussion. Mention the adjustments to *Awake!* announced in the March 2005 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1, paragraphs 5-6. Include comments on "To Our Readers" in the *Awake!* of January 2006, pages 3-4. Point out examples of how the magazine straightforwardly directs readers to the Bible. Invite the audience to comment on the new feature on page 31. We will continue to offer *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as a set on the initial call. Of course, we will place only one copy of each issue of *Awake!* with those on our magazine route and with others who accept the magazines regularly. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the January 1 *Watchtower* and the January *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. The January issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* will include a second presentation for the January *Awake!* featuring one of the secondary articles. Both presentations may be used throughout the month.

Song 222 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 2

Song 5

Note: Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 2 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting. In every congregation, the convention insert should be considered on the Service Meeting as scheduled. If there is a circuit assembly this week, book study overseers should announce the convention location and dates at their regularly scheduled book studies. A copy of the Recommended Lodging List should be made available by the Congregation Book Study overseer so that those in attendance can write down the hotel phone numbers for making their reservations. However, copies of the list should not be made for publishers.

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: "Make Wise Use of Our Bible-Based Literature."* Include comments on the September 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1.

25 min: "2006 'Deliverance at Hand' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. After considering paragraph 1, read the December 15, 2005, convention assignment letter. Encourage all to make their convention arrangements as soon as possible.

Song 48 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	**156**	**101.1**	**81.7**	**45.7**	**4.5**
Pios.	**92,785**	**57.4**	**35.5**	**18.1**	**1.8**
Aux. Pios.	**18,506**	**50.0**	**35.5**	**12.5**	**1.1**
Pubs.	**924,355**	**9.2**	**8.2**	**3.5**	**0.3**
TOTAL	**1,035,802**			Baptized:	**2,126**

August proved to be a month of remarkable activity. The total number of publishers recorded was 1,035,802. This is the second-highest number of Kingdom proclaimers ever recorded in the United States!

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2006 "Deliverance at Hand" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] King Hezekiah of ancient Judah used runners to hand deliver letters summoning the people to assemble together in Jerusalem. (2 Chron. 30:6, 13) The response of the people revealed their attitude toward true worship. (2 Chron. 30:10-12) In the coming months, servants of Jehovah today will have a similar opportunity to demonstrate their heartfelt appreciation for the privilege of gathering together to worship Jehovah. A letter has been delivered to your congregation inviting you to attend the "Deliverance at Hand" District Convention. How will you respond to that invitation?

[2] **Make Arrangements Now:** To benefit fully from the spiritual program that is being lovingly prepared, we need to be present for the entire program. Wisely start now to make whatever arrangements are needed for you and your family to attend all three days. (Prov. 21:5) Such preparations may include asking your employer for time off, discussing your plans with a non-Witness mate, making hotel reservations, and assisting Bible students to be in attendance each day. Do not leave these important matters to the last minute. Rather, make them a matter of prayer to Jehovah, trusting that "he himself will act."—Ps. 37:5.

Program Times

Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 5:05 p.m.
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.

[3] Jehovah's organization has gone to great lengths to ensure that sufficient accommodations are available in each convention city. Appreciation for the self-sacrificing efforts of the hardworking brothers who assisted in making these arrangements, consideration for our fellow convention delegates, and respect for theocratic order should move us to cooperate fully with the guidelines provided in this article.—1 Cor. 13:5; 1 Thess. 5:12, 13; Heb. 13:17.

[4] **Hotel Reservations:** A Recommended Lodging List of available hotels will be posted on the information board after this article is considered at the Service Meeting. Using the instructions in the box on page 4, please reserve rooms *only* at hotels on the list and agree to pay *only* the rates shown. Please do not call hotels that are not on the list and ask if they have a rate for your convention. Such hotels will often say that they have a rate for Jehovah's Witnesses. Your cooperation will help toward the goal of obtaining high-quality hotels near the convention site at the best rates possible each year.—1 Cor. 14:40.

[5] It is important to reserve only the hotel rooms you will actually use during the convention. Unless you have agreed to do so beforehand and submit definite names, please do not reserve rooms for other delegates. This artificially inflates the number of rooms reserved for the convention and makes it harder for other delegates to make a reservation. Each room should be reserved in the name of one of the persons who will occupy it.

[6] To guarantee your reservation, you must make a deposit to the hotel for each room reserved. Otherwise, the hotel can offer your room to someone else. If no rooms are

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1. How did God's people demonstrate their appreciation for true worship in ancient times, and what similar opportunity do we have today?

2. What can we do now so as to benefit fully from the convention?

3. Why should we cooperate with the arrangements that have been made for our accommodations?

4-6. What important points should we keep in mind when making hotel reservations, and why? (Include box on page 4.)

How to Make Your Hotel Reservation

1. Call hotels during regular business hours, using the telephone numbers on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Specify the dates you will check in and check out of the hotel.
4. If no more rooms are available, call another hotel on the list.
5. *Do not* accept a higher rate than what is shown on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order *within ten days. Never* send cash. If a deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front.

Please

- Stay only in hotels on the Recommended Lodging List.
- Reserve only the rooms that you will actually use.
- Keep your first reservation.—Matt. 5:37.
- Plan on having no more than four persons per room, including children, unless the list indicates otherwise.

available after you have called *all* the hotels on the list or if you have a problem with a hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should contact your convention's Rooming Department, not the branch office, using the information at the top of the list. Please wait for a revised list to be received for your convention rather than calling a hotel not on the list.

[7] **Special Needs:** Proverbs 3:27 says: "Do not hold back good from those to whom it is owing, when it happens to be in the power of your hand to do it." How can you do good to others in connection with the convention? Elderly publishers, the infirm, those in full-time service, and others may require practical assistance with transportation or accommodations. Relatives have the primary responsibility to care for the needs of such ones. (1 Tim. 5:4) If they cannot do so, fellow believers may be able to help. (Gal. 6:10) Book study overseers should check with those in their group who have special needs to be sure that their plans are in order well in advance of the convention.

[8] *Special Needs Room Request* forms are available *only* for publishers whose accommodation *needs* cannot be cared for by family members or by their congregation. The Congregation Service Committee should consider the publisher's qualifications, using the guidelines on the form as well as the letter dated December 14, 2005, addressed to all bodies of elders. This provision is only for publishers in good standing, along with their well-behaved children.

[9] **Attending Another Convention:** To ensure that there will be sufficient seating, literature, rooming accommodations, and so forth, you are encouraged to attend the convention to which your congregation is assigned. If circumstances require that you attend a different convention, please see your congregation secretary for the mailing address of the convention you will attend, which is printed on the back of the *Special Needs Room Request* form. Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for the Recommended Lodging List or any additional information. If there is more than one convention being held in the city, indicate the dates of the convention that you will attend.

[10] **Willing Volunteers:** There is no question that much joy will come to all who attend the convention and benefit from the spiritual food and opportunities for upbuilding association. Our happiness will be even greater if we volunteer to assist with the work

7, 8. How can those with special needs be cared for?

9. (a) Why should we attend our assigned convention? (b) What steps should be followed if circumstances require that you attend a different convention?

10. What is one way we can contribute to the joy of the upcoming convention?

that must be done to make the convention a success. (Acts 20:35) Local Convention Committees will soon be inviting others to share in this work. Can you make yourself available?—Ps. 110:3.

[11] While attending a district convention, a five-year-old boy said: "The district convention is my favorite part of worshipping Jehovah." That heartfelt comment helps all of us to appreciate how much we enjoy attending our annual district convention. It is truly as the psalmist sang: "A day in your courtyards is better than a thousand elsewhere." (Ps. 84:10) David expressed in song his desire to 'dwell in the house of Jehovah all the days of his life so as to look with appreciation upon Jehovah's temple.' (Ps. 27:4) It pleased David greatly to be among Jehovah's worshippers. May we imitate his appreciation for true worship by being in attendance for all three days of the "Deliverance at Hand" District Convention.

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11. What do you appreciate about the annual district convention, and what should be your determination?

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 26, 2005. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 7 through December 26, 2005. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What can we do to ensure that our exhortation is given "on the basis of love"? (Philem. 9) [*be* p. 266]
2. In what ways can we "exhort by the teaching that is healthful"? (Titus 1:9) [*be* p. 267 pars. 1-2]
3. Why is it important to make our talks encouraging, and how can we do this? [*be* p. 268 pars. 1-3, box]
4. In imitation of Moses, how does our helping others to call to mind what Jehovah has done for his people inspire courage? (Deut. 3:28; 31:1-8) [*be* p. 268 par. 5–p. 269 par. 2]
5. Why would speaking with delight about what Jehovah is doing right now and about what he will do in the future be encouraging to our audience? [*be* pp. 270-1]

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is the *Septuagint,* and why is it of interest to Christians? [*si* p. 307 par. 12–p. 310 par. 14]
7. Who were the Masoretes, and what notable contributions did they make to Bible translation? [*si* p. 310 par. 18; p. 311 pars. 20-1]
8. What provides the basic text for the Hebrew section of the *New World Translation* in English, and why can it be said that this translation is authoritative and reliable? [*si* p. 312 pars. 28, 30]
9. How did early Christians display an intense desire to publish the Word of God? [*si* p. 315 pars. 1-5]
10. What does a study of existing manuscripts and texts of the Holy Scriptures reveal about the Bible? [*si* p. 320 par. 32]

WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Does the fact that David was not permitted to build the temple indicate that Jehovah did not approve of the wars fought by David? (1 Chron. 22:6-10)
12. In his temple dedication prayer, how did Solomon acknowledge that Jehovah is not only attentive to the needs of his servants as a group but also aware of the unique situation of each individual who fears him? (2 Chron. 6:29, 30)
13. What are "the goat-shaped demons" referred to at 2 Chronicles 11:15?
14. Since Baasha's rule began "in the third year of Asa" and lasted only 24 years, how can we reconcile Baasha's coming "against Judah" in "the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Asa"? (1 Ki. 15:33; 2 Chron. 16:1)
15. How does 2 Chronicles 20:22, 23 vividly illustrate what is about to happen to Satan's world?

Could Your Child Make a Mature Decision?

[1] A mature decision about what? Blood transfusions. As shown in the article entitled "Walk as Instructed by Jehovah" in the June 15, 1991, issue of *The Watchtower,* children of Jehovah's Witnesses have had to take a mature stand to prove that their desire to obey God's law on blood is as important to them as it is to their parents. Could that also be required of your minor child?

[2] **What Does the Law Say?** In the United States, the highest court that has ruled on a mature minor's right to refuse blood transfusions is the Illinois Supreme Court. In reviewing the case of a 17-year-old sister, the court decreed: "If the evidence is clear and convincing that the minor is mature enough to appreciate the consequences of her actions [and] to exercise the judgment of an adult, then the mature minor doctrine affords her the common law right to consent to or refuse medical treatment." Thus, in assessing whether a child is mature enough to make his own decision, doctors or officials may interview the patient to hear him express his personal objection to taking blood. The youth would need to understand reasonably the gravity of his medical condition and the consequences of his options for treatment and clearly and firmly express his own religious belief about God's law on blood.

[3] **What Would Your Child Say?** Are your children able to express themselves on this issue? Do they believe with all their heart that it is a divine command to 'abstain from blood'? (Acts 15:29; 21:25) Can they explain their belief from the Scriptures? Would they courageously defend their firm decision about blood if doctors believed that their life was in jeopardy, even if their parents were not present? Since "time and unforeseen occurrence befall [us] all," how can you prepare your children for any unexpected challenge to their integrity?—Eccl. 9:11; Eph. 6:4.

[4] **Parents, What Can You Do?** You have the responsibility to teach your children God's view of blood. (2 Tim. 3:14, 15) A clear explanation is found in the *Reasoning* book, pages 70-4. Study it carefully with your family. Using the feature "If Someone Says—" on pages 74-6, conduct practice sessions with your children to help them gain experience in explaining what they believe and why. (1 Pet. 3:15) Other provisions for educating us about the blood issue include the brochure *How Can Blood Save Your Life?* and *The Watchtower* of June 15, 2004, pages 14-24. In addition, the video programs *Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights* and *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge,* which are currently available on the DVD entitled *Transfusion Alternatives—Documentary Series,* give convincing information about the reasonableness and effectiveness of bloodless medicine and surgery. Has your family watched and discussed these presentations recently?

[5] Help your children 'prove to themselves what the good, acceptable, and perfect will of God' is regarding blood. Then they can make a mature decision that has Jehovah's blessing.—Rom. 12:2.

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1. What stand have Witness youths taken regarding the use of blood? Give an example.

2. What legal standard did one court apply to a minor who refused blood transfusions, and what do Christian parents and their minor children learn from this?

3. What questions should parents seriously consider, and why?

4, 5. (a) What responsibility do parents have, and how can they fulfill it? (b) What provisions are available to assist parents?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1991 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *What Does the Bible Really Teach?* Make a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ As a reminder, all congregations should notify the branch office of their meeting times as they will be on January 1. If this has not been done, the congregation secretary should immediately submit a *Congregation Meeting Information* (S-5) form.

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following dates: March 11, 2006 (Gilead graduation); May 12-13, 2006 (spring cleaning); September 9, 2006 (Gilead graduation); and October 7, 2006 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

■ The Memorial invitations for **2006** in the primary language of each congregation will soon be sent. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested as soon as possible on a *Literature Request Form* (S-14). A listing of the languages in which Memorial invitations are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ Please note that the Memorial for the year **2007** will be on Monday, April 2, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. In such instances, the elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner.

■ Because of the importance of the Memorial, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders to be the speaker instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother every year. If there is an elder of the anointed who is well qualified to give the talk, he should be selected.

A School That Helps Us Make Practical Application

[1] As we consider the material listed in the Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2006, we strive to benefit from Scriptural teachings by relating them to our sacred service and everyday life. We make it a point to practice the things we learn.—John 13:17; Phil. 4:9.

[2] **Offering Comments:** The schedule for this year allocates an additional minute to audience participation in Bible highlights. This means that the brother assigned to present the highlights should be careful to complete his portion in five minutes instead of six. Those offering comments from their seats should also be mindful of their timing. With careful forethought, the one commenting can express helpful information in 30 seconds or less. Approximately ten individuals should be able to make meaningful comments during the five minutes allotted for audience participation.

[3] **Talks That Teach:** The Bible highlights and the instruction talk should focus on the value of the material as it applies to our ministry and other aspects of our daily lives. A speaker should do more than simply awaken in his listeners a desire to act. He should specify what action is needed, show how it can be accomplished, and draw attention to the benefits of taking such action. It should be possible to say, "This is how this text provides guidance for us," or "This is how we might use these verses in the ministry." Elders and ministerial servants who are aware of local circumstances should strive to make the practical application of the material as specific as possible.

[4] Citing Biblical examples can be particularly effective in making practical application. After referring to a Scriptural example, a speaker could say, "You too may find yourself in a situation similar to this." He should make sure that any application of the Biblical example is in harmony with the context, with the Bible as a whole, and with what has been published by "the faithful and discreet slave."—Matt. 24:45.

[5] Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge and understanding successfully. "Wisdom is the prime thing." (Prov. 4:7) As we go on acquiring practical wisdom through our studies in the Theocratic Ministry School, may we also hone the art of imparting it to others.

Make Wise Use of Our Bible-Based Literature

[1] "I have been reading your publications since 1965. I refer to the Bible when reading, and everything in your literature corresponds to the Bible. I've always wanted to know the real truth about God and Jesus, and I honestly can say that I am finding true answers through your material and the Bible." That is what one man wrote to the headquarters of Jehovah's Witnesses. In the same letter, he requested a Bible study.

[2] Like that grateful man, millions of people worldwide appreciate the Bible study aids provided by "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24: 45) Each year, a tremendous amount of literature is produced to help honesthearted people "come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) How can we make wise use of our Bible-based literature?

[3] **Avoid Waste:** Over a period of time, we could accumulate more literature than we will actually use. What can we do to avoid wasting our valuable publications? Discernment is needed when picking up literature for use in the ministry. Rather than obtaining many copies of a publication that we will be offering, we might pick up just one or two copies and return for more after those are placed. This would prevent a large supply of literature from accumulating in our homes. Similarly, if we have a large number of unplaced magazines, it would be appropriate to reduce the number that we request.

[4] **Overstocked Items:** If the congregation is overstocked with certain publications, the literature coordinator may wish to check with other congregations in the area to see if they can use the extra literature. Publishers can offer older publications to unbelieving family members, Bible students, and others. Those who are newly associated with the congregation may appreciate having these older publications for their personal theocratic library.

[5] We want our literature to achieve its intended purpose, namely, to help sincere people learn more about Jehovah's marvelous purposes. Just as Jesus did not waste leftover food after he miraculously fed the crowds, our goal should be to make the best use of the valuable Bible-based literature that is provided. (John 6: 11-13) The lifesaving message contained in our publications cannot touch the hearts of righteously inclined people if it remains on our shelves or in our book bags. Therefore, we must be reasonable when picking up literature for the ministry and make wise use of it to benefit others.—Phil. 4:5.

1, 2. How do many people feel about our literature, and what question does this raise?

3. How can we avoid wasting literature?

4. What can be done if a congregation has overstocked items?

5. How can we demonstrate appreciation for our literature?

What to Say About the Magazines

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The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom Dec. 15

"Many people are concerned over how commercialized the holiday season has become. Do you think that it has lost its focus? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers how holiday customs have changed over time. It also discusses how we can truly honor God and Christ." Read John 17:3.

Awake!® Dec. 22

"Some 85 years ago, a disease epidemic killed more people in 24 weeks than AIDS has killed in 24 years. Some call it the worst plague in history. Have you heard of the Spanish flu? [Allow for response.] This magazine considers whether such a thing could happen again. It also gives reason for hope." Read Isaiah 33:24.

The Watchtower Announcing Jehovah's Kingdom Jan. 1

"Humans have the capacity to do much good, yet they often do unspeakably evil things. Have you ever wondered why? [Allow for response.] This magazine gives the Bible's answer. It also explains how good will ultimately triumph over evil." Read Romans 16:20.

Awake!® Jan.

"Do you ever wonder what the world will be like in 20 or 30 years? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 119:105.] The Bible illuminates the path ahead so that we can discern what the future holds. This magazine examines prophecies that show where we are now in the stream of time and why we can expect a bright future."